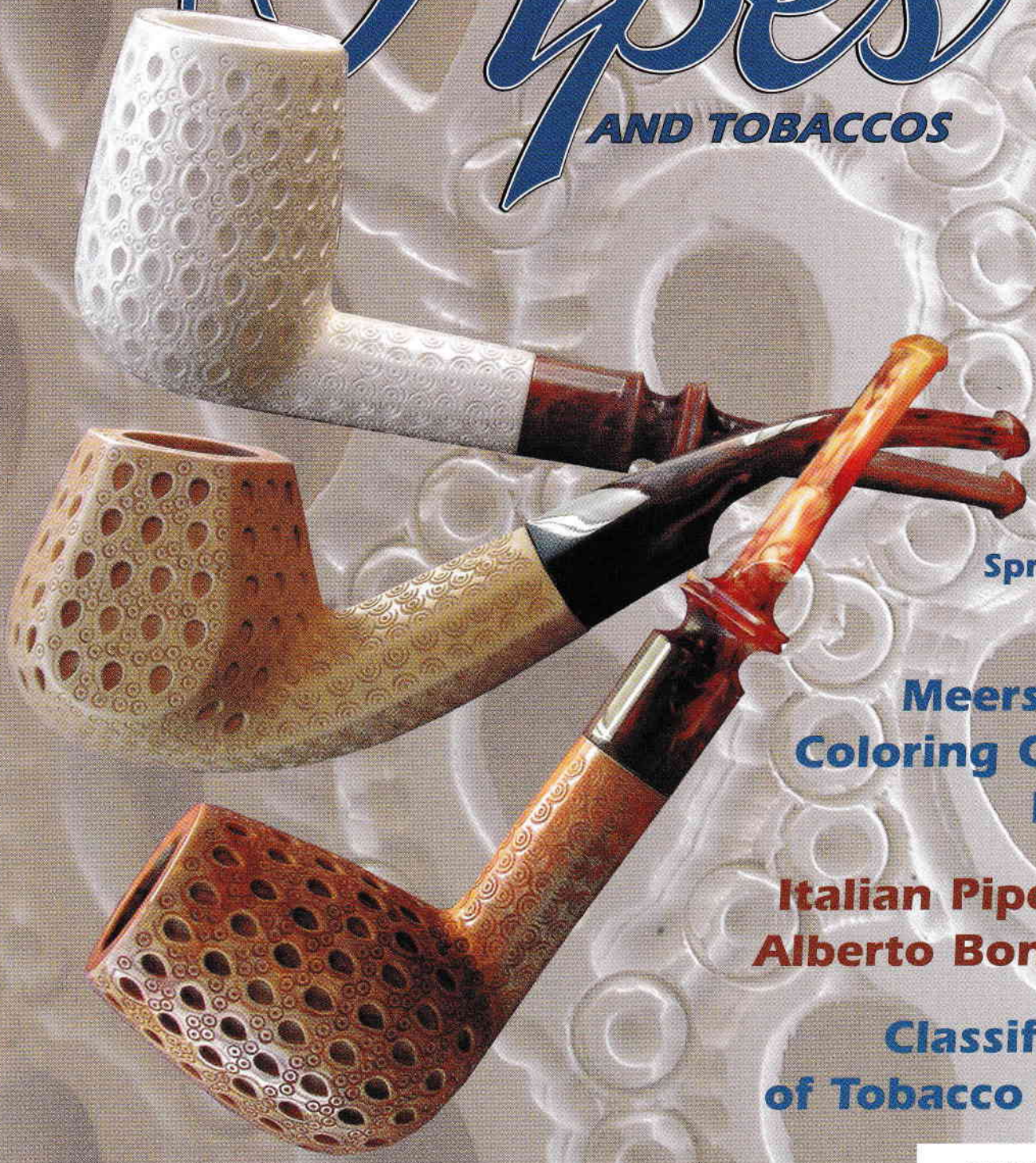
# Pipes AND TOBACCOS



Spring 2003

Cover

Meerschaum Coloring Contest Results

Italian Pipemaker Alberto Bonfiglioli

Classification of Tobacco Blends

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Pipes AND TOBACCOS

Page 12

Page 22


12 **Bonfiglioli: Bologna's pipe-smoking pipemaker**
Highly cognizant of the pipe marketplace as a global environment, Alberto Bonfiglioli showcases his pipes not only from his Bologna shop, but by regularly attending U.S. pipe shows and by maintaining a stimulating Web site that appeals to his customers worldwide. As important to him as the pipes he makes are the friends he makes, and his popularity among smokers everywhere continues to grow.

18 **On the Classification of Tobacco Blends**
For an accurate discussion to take place concerning tobacco, common terminology must be in place. William Serad proposes some definitions so we can all know what we're talking about when we talk about tobacco.

20 **A Medicine for Melancholy**
Professional poet, author, scholar and teacher Lewis Turco provides a poetic perspective on pipe smoking, that hopeful antidote to spiritual melancholy that we all prescribe ourselves.

22 **Awakening**
Pöschl Tabak brings its classic tobacco blends and nasal snuff to a new market: America. With a few strategies that have helped beleaguered smokers enjoy tobacco despite the anti-smoking industry in the United States, Pöschl is ready to offer its products to the new world.

28 **Snuff's the Stuff**
Nasal snuff is a form of tobacco that reached its peak of popularity hundreds of years ago. It is making a comeback, though—especially in the current social environment, in which smoking is rarely permitted.

34 **Further Reflections on Coloring a Meerschaum**
The best techniques for coloring a meerschaum are difficult to ascertain. As many different opinions exist as there are smokers. History also offers few answers; as long as meerschaum pipes have been enjoyed, smokers have disagreed on coloring strategies.

Vol. 8, No. 1
Spring 2003

Page 28

36 **How to Color Your Meerschaum Pipe**
A combination of techniques and tricks to more quickly and evenly get that deep, amber-brown hue that makes a meerschaum truly remarkable.

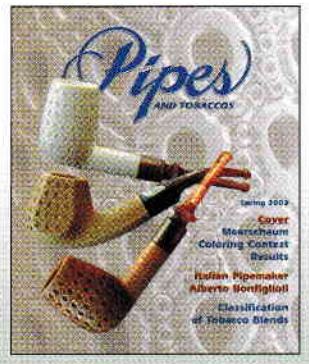
38 **Meerschaum Contest Results**
Learn the techniques used by participants in our meerschaum coloring contest.

43 **W.Ø. Ole Larsen**
Danish pipe legend W.Ø. Ole Larsen recently passed away, leaving a giant void in the pipe world.

58 **National Pipe-smoking Contest**
Do you have what it takes to compete for a spot for the first United States pipe-smoking squad? Learn about the competition that will be held at this year's Chicago Pipe Show.

**Regular Features**

4 Editor's Desk
6 Pipe Lines
46 Ask Chuck
48 Trial By Fire
60 Pipe Museum
61 Clubs and Events
64 Advertising Index




**Cover**
A representation of meerschaums as they darken from pristine white to the deeper tones that make meerschaum so beautiful. *Cover image by Chuck Stanion and Karen Smith.*

Pipes AND TOBACCOS

A quarterly magazine celebrating pipes of all kinds and fine tobaccos.

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# The Pursuit of Fame

We get a considerable amount of mail here at *P&T*; mainly observations, compliments, anti-smoking hate mail, requests for information and suggestions for articles. We can't possibly answer it all on an individual basis, but we do read and enjoy it, and print what seems appropriate.

Suggestions for celebrity articles are especially prevalent. We've received numerous recommendations that we pursue interviews with Ian Anderson, Lou Holtz, George Hamilton, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Jordan, Gerald Ford, Tom Selleck, Hugh Hefner and numerous other celebrities who are thought to be pipe smokers. Sometimes the letters reveal a frustrated tone because we have not already done such obvious interviews.

But it's not as easy as one might think. In this age of anti-tobacco political correctness, some celebrity pipe smokers may see their enjoyment of tobacco as potentially alienating to their public. Some may feel that cigar smoking is fine for their image, but pipe smoking is too tweedy and professorial for the persona they have developed. Sadly, though, what these celebrities may or may not think about tobacco is often less important than what their *publicists* think about tobacco. In our endeavors to contact celebrities, even in those cases where we have been granted interviews, we have never spoken to the actual subject previous to the interview—always we must go through the protective layers of secretaries, agents, publicists and executive assistants who control what and who the celebrity in question sees.

It may well be that these people would be happy to do an interview with *P&T*, but that they never hear of the request. In one case, for example, we were contacted by a tobacconist who regularly sold pipes and tobacco to a particular movie star, and told that they were sure we could get an interview. This celebrity's publicist, though, responding to our request, stridently informed us that the person in question does not smoke and does not want to be placed in a position indicating support of tobacco in any way, shape or form. It's just a suspicion, but that sounds to us like a policy made without benefit of the principal's opinion.

Actor George Hamilton has on two occasions personally agreed to an interview, but we have been unable to gain the cooperation of his "people," and we wonder if he even knows that we have been trying. University of South Carolina football coach Lou Holtz, an avid pipe smoker, would be a terrific interview. University policy dictates, however, that he not be photographed with a pipe. Clearly the university is embarrassed by Holtz's use of tobacco, and no cooperation has been forthcoming.

Other famous pipe smokers are uninterested because they have quit smoking. We contacted Hugh Hefner years ago, but he felt that it would be inappropriate to be interviewed as a *former* pipe smoker, despite our reassurances that it didn't matter. Do you think we would turn down any excuse whatsoever for an opportunity to visit the Playboy mansion? Not likely. Gerald Ford's secretary also informed us that the former president no longer smokes, and we were turned down there as well.

So we are trying. We want to bring you famous smokers; it seems a great way to make us pipe smokers, as a group, feel less insulated and less anachronistic. If you ever think it odd that we have not yet interviewed a particular celebrity who seems an obvious choice, it is probable that we have tried and failed.

We would appreciate your help in this, if you're able. If you get your hair cut by the same person as Sylvester Stallone, or you use the same veterinarian as Arnold Schwarzennegger, or your third cousin twice removed once dated Tom Selleck, see what you can do. We'll try whatever we can to get to these interesting folks and propose a story. And if you happen to be famous yourself, even better. You could help us all celebrate our pipes by permitting a short, painless interview. We aren't the *National Enquirer*; you'll like the story we put together.

Chuck

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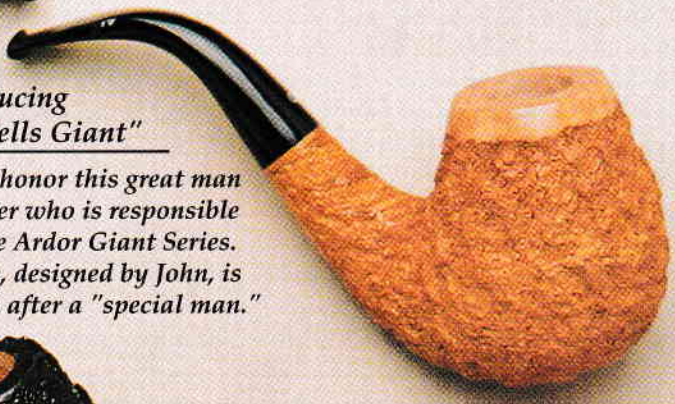

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# P&T *Readers Respond*

**An e-pipe-hany**

I did not think it would be possible to become any more excited about pipes than I am already. Somehow, though, it has happened. I bought my first meerschaum on a recent trip to Gatlinburg, Tenn. I was looking for something to catch my eye, something special within an affordable price range. Along came the miracle deal I was looking for in the guise of a C.A.O. meerschaum pipe!

I was attracted to its curving vertical lines meeting with horizontal lines at the pipe's bowl, creating a simplistic, yet beautiful, form made all the more attractive with its egg-white coloring. I knew the price of the pipe would be the catch that would keep me from owning it. Remarkably, the price was well within my target range, and it afforded me the luxury of some tobacco, a lighter and a new pipe tool too!

The lovely woman behind the counter taught me how to care for the pipe and discussed the advantages of smoking meerschaum pipes over smoking typical briar pipes. I must admit I was suspicious of all the claims that she made. However, after four weeks of smoking my beauty, the claims have all proved true. There has been no break-in period, no messy chemical cleaning has been necessary, and the pipe provides a clean cool smoke every time.

I am in awe of the material of the pipe. I have already ordered another "meer," and am impatiently champing at the bit to begin the coloring process with another piece. My inaugural pipe is coming along nicely in this area and I love seeing its changes that seem to appear daily.

Thank you again for a great source of knowledge and your many links on the Web that have opened almost endless possibilities. Thanks also to the helpful kindred soul at Smokezy in Gatlinburg—I will be ordering some of that Peaches and Cream tobacco soon! Happy puffing everyone!

P. Jason Akey
cyberspace

**Taxing issues**

Cheers my fellow pipe-smoking chaps! If I may ask, when will you address the very high prices of (pipe) tobacco in your (our) magazine? Government = tax, tax, tax. The (our) government is a bigger crook than the crooks! Here in New York, the price for pipe tobacco is unreal. Federal, state and local government officials are all odious rogues, bounders, brigands and trollops!

Robert Rasmussen
Port Jefferson Station, New York

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P&T: *Tobacco tax issues vary from state to state and change so quickly (always upward) that it would be extremely difficult for us to write a timely and comprehensive story. There is very little that we can do through our magazine forum other than urge everyone to write their elected representatives to oppose such measures.*

**Dope dupe**

I am a sophomore in college with a goatee and a ponytail. I've been smoking pipes rather uneventfully for about a year now. A week ago, I was coming home from a party. It was cold outside and as I got into my car, I lit my pipe. Before I drove away, a policeman came knocking on my window. He demanded to know what I was smoking. With a chuckle, I handed him my pipe, along with my tobacco pouch. He looked rather surprised and annoyed at the same time, letting me go with little more than a grunt. Such is the life of a young pipe smoker.

Ricardo Gonzalez
Chicago, Illinois

P&T: *Pipe smokers have had many similar experiences. One of our staff first picked up a pipe—a Dr. Grabow—when he was a freshman at college. He brought the pipe and plastic bag holding five ounces of an aromatic blend back to his dorm room. Just as he had finished figuring out how to light it, the floor counselor was banging on the door. He smelled the scent of the smoke coming from the room and thought that some illegal activity was taking place. After examining the tobacco, his advice was to switch blends! Unfortunately, legitimate pipe smokers have become a minority, and pipe smoking is too often mistaken by the general public as something other than the legal and contemplative activity that it is.*

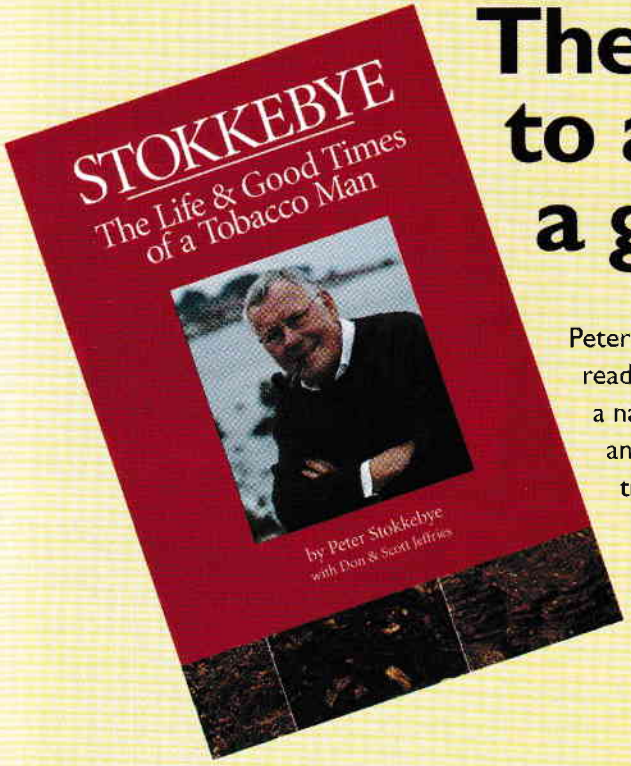
**More, please**

I have been a subscriber to your wonderful magazine since the very first issue and can't wait until I find the next issue in my mailbox. Sadly, there are only four issues a year. I'm amazed at how I return to old issues and read them again (my wife can't understand why I save them, but then we all know the answer to this).

I hope the distributors and pipe manufacturers know what a valuable service your magazine provides, as I sit here slowly puffing on my newly broken-in Bing with my favorite Virginia No. 1. Now, if only Mrs. W. would let me enjoy Arcadia indoors. Please, publish at least six issues a year.

Tom Willerton
cyberspace

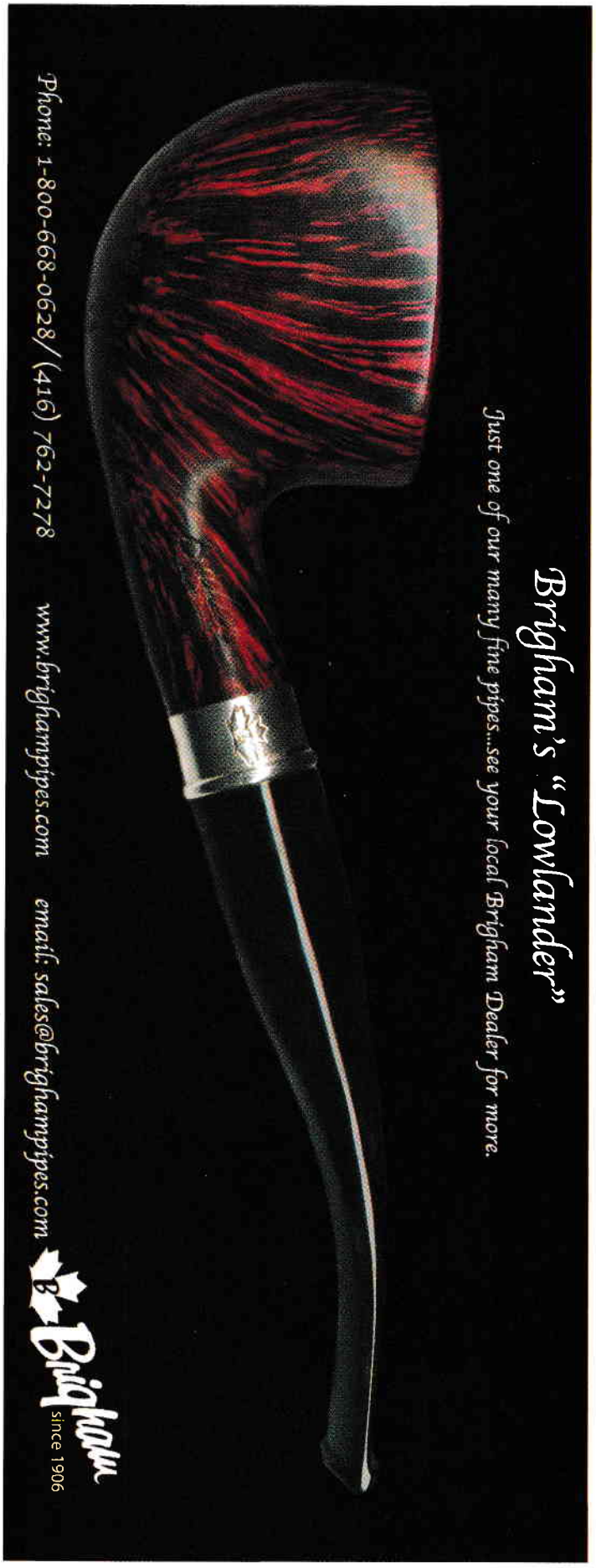
Having been absent from pipe smoking for more than a decade, and recently taking up the "gentle art" again, I ran across your publication at a local magazine shop. It is one of the most finely crafted periodicals I have read, from the quality of the writing to the feel and appearance of the paper itself. In the near future I will be sending in a request for a subscription. You have provided me with several evenings of reading enjoyment, and valuable infor-


**The next best thing to a good smoke is a good story.**

Peter Stokkebye's life story is indeed a good one. It takes the reader from a childhood under Nazi occupation in Denmark, to a nationally televised wedding in New York City, to millions won and millions lost in the tobacco business, and a lot of good times along the way. For the true pipe enthusiast, the book also features Peter's insights on tobaccos and blending.

*STOKKEBYE: The Life & Good Times of a Tobacco Man* is available at your favorite Tobacconist, through the *Pipes & Tobacco* online store at www.pt-magazine.com, or by calling *Pipes & Tobacco* at 800-346-7469.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mation as I pursue my old hobby.

Richard E. Gress
Salt Lake City, Utah

I've been reading *P&T* since its inception and have enjoyed every issue. I find myself going back and re-reading all the old issues on a regular basis. There's always something I've forgotten or get to enjoy again. I wanted to also say that William Serad is a wonderful contributor. I am lucky that my tastes in tobacco closely mirror his and he has yet to steer me to a blend he's liked that I haven't. I hope I get the opportunity to meet him and share some thoughts over a pipe and a glass. I also think his writing style and prose are top-notch. Thanks for the fine publication and I look forward to many more years of great reading.

David Boucher
cyberspace

P&T: *If you're planning to attend the Chicago Pipe Show in May this year, you'll have an opportunity to meet William Serad. He is participating in a panel on tobacco blending, and will be circulating among the other attendees at the show all weekend.*

**Pipe smokers abroad**

I just wanted to drop you a line to compliment you on your fine magazine. I especially enjoyed your essays on Faulkner and Tolkien. Great stuff. While on a trip to Taiwan I introduced my father-in-law to the joys of pipe smoking, and he readily took to it. Being a cigarette smoker, he preferred the English blends. I'm including a picture of us enjoying his first pipe, along with one other photo, that of a men's restroom sign I saw in Taichung County, central Taiwan. Apparently some people still have the right notion of the consummate gentleman! All the best, and keep up with the fine writing and features!

Greg Creel
Ontario, California

***P&T* reprints**

I always loved the smell and atmosphere of tobacco shops, and enjoyed shopping for gifts in them even though I was a nonsmoker.

A couple of months ago, on a whim, I decided to buy a pipe. I went to a local shop and the salesman was very helpful. I bought a Savinelli billiard and a couple of tins that were recommended, one of which, Frog Morton, has become an instant favorite. The sales-

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man at the shop also gave me a free copy of *P&T*. I didn't think I would have any real interest in such a magazine, but when I leafed through it, I was immediately impressed. I love the articles and the information. It makes me understand pipe smoking and feel like I'm part of a large, invisible community. I'm sending in for a subscription. I'm also ordering all the available back issues. I just wish the sold-out issues were somehow available. Any possibility of reprints?

Gary Warburton
Indianapolis, Indiana

P&T: *There are no immediate plans for reprinting those sold-out issues, but we are looking into reproducing them on our Web site for the perusal of our readers.*

**Smoke on the water II**

The USS Nassau-LHA4 is now deployed in the Middle East. The Nassau displaces 40,000 tons, has a crew of 1,000 and carries 2,000 Marines, a helicopter squadron and a Harrier fighter-jet squadron. Its captain, Russell P. Tjepkema, its executive officer, its ship's doctor and its navigator are all pipe smokers. Other soldiers and sailors have also picked up briar pipes that have been donated to the ship's crew by Albany, New York's The Smoker and Havana Premium Cigars, and Knoxville, Tennessee's Knoxville Cigar during their latest deployment.

Members of the electronic bulletin board, *alt.smokers.pipes*, have also kindly donated to the cause.

To help these brave men and women who sacrifice so much for us, we at Cornell & Diehl are contributing $3 from every tin of our Nassau pipe tobacco to the ship's Morale, Welfare & Recreational Fund.

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# Bonfiglioli: Bologna's pipe-smoking pipemaker

*Alberto Bonfiglioli learns about e-commerce, and the rest of the world learns about his pipes*

by Stephen A. Ross

Three extremely large freehand pipes rest on the countertop at Alberto Bonfiglioli's pipe laboratory and showroom in Bologna, Italy. Apologizing, Bonfiglioli explains that he must polish the pipes one final time because a customer will be by soon to choose one as a gift for a friend. One by one, he examines each pipe in the light cast by a bulb hanging above his head before placing it on the buffing wheel. After just a few minutes, Bonfiglioli is satisfied with his work and places the pipes, with their stems shining, in pouches and sets them behind the counter to await the customer. Moments later, the customer enters the shop and examines each of the three pipes before making his choice—he purchases all three.

Pleased with his latest sale, Bonfiglioli turns and picks his way carefully to the back room to celebrate with his friends. Although Bonfiglioli's a big man whose body frame resembles that of a power forward in the NBA, even Tom Thumb would have to pick his way carefully in the cramped confines of Bonfiglioli's approximately 200-square-foot shop. Carved out of Bologna's old city wall, Bonfiglioli's shop is crammed full, with a fraising machine, brushes, files, sanders and a sandblasting machine; mementos from his trips to the United States; and members of his pipe club who are always sitting around a table in the back room, smoking pipes and playing Briscola, a popular Italian card game.

Bonfiglioli sits at the table, lights his pipe and is dealt a hand. After examining his cards, he sets them down, blows smoke from his mouth and says matter-of-factly, "My pipes are known throughout the world."

Although some might misconstrue Bonfiglioli's statement as boastful, it's not far from the truth. After finishing school in 1967, Bonfiglioli began working in the back room of his father's tobacco shop located at Bologna's central railway station. He repaired pipes for his father's clients for seven years before making his first pipe in 1974, Artebano, using his father's name to honor him. After his father's

death in 1978, he made his first pipe bearing the Bonfiglioli name. In 1981, he moved to Alexandria, Va., to work in a pipe shop but moved back to Bologna a year later to start his own shop. Bonfiglioli remained one of Bologna's hidden gems until he discovered the Internet in 1995. Barely able to turn on a computer, Bonfiglioli taught himself how to construct a Web site. He included pictures of his shop, pictures of trips to other regions of Italy with his pipe club, and pictures of his pipes. On April 28, 1995, he received his first online order. "I am the first virtual pipemaker," he says looking up from his cards and pointing to the invoice taped to the wall. Since 1995, Bonfiglioli has experienced great success selling his pipes online to people from Singapore, Australia, Europe, South America and the United States, and other pipemakers have since explored selling pipes online.

The majority of his pipes are shipped to the United States, and Bonfiglioli returns to the U.S. as often as he can. He clearly loves America. Continuing to play his hand, Bonfiglioli says, "Although I stayed in America for only one year, it remains in my heart to this day." His shop is festooned with objects reminding him of his love for the United States—pictures of some of his American customers, two American flags, numerous American movie posters, a Route 66 sign and other souvenirs line its walls.

"I want to support the American pipe smoker," he says, and there are few pipemakers who surpass him in supporting American pipe clubs. Bonfiglioli at-

tends the Chicago Pipe Show and the Conclave of Richmond Pipe Smokers (CORPS) show every year and, if his schedule allows it, he does his best to attend other American shows too. He comes to sell pipes, renew friendships and meet customers who have ordered his pipes over the Internet. He even donates many of his pipes to shows' charitable auctions. Plaques of appreciation from numerous pipe clubs are scattered among the Americana on his shop's walls and he was recently named 2002 CORPS Member of the Year—yet another plaque to hang on his wall.

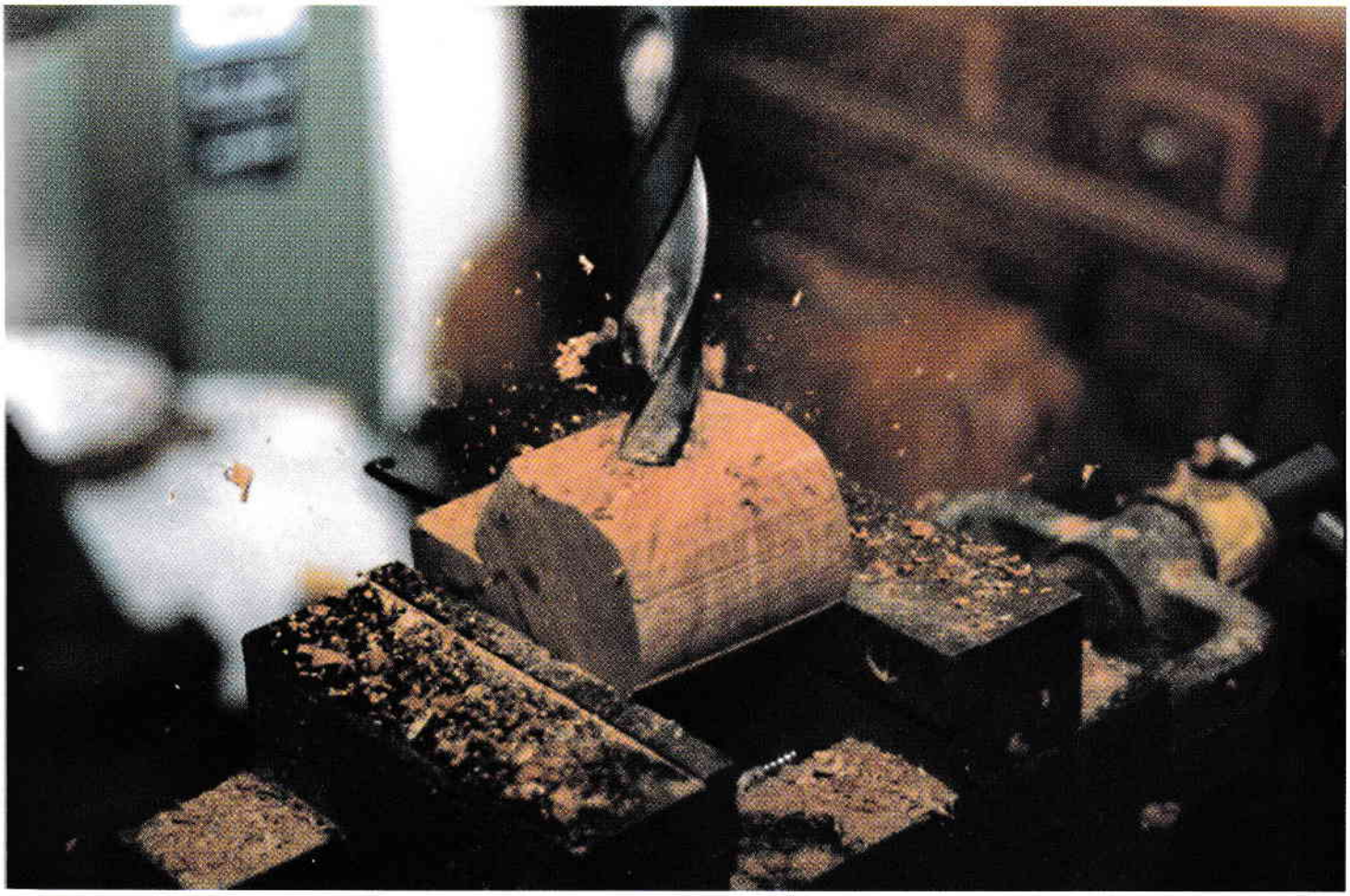
Bonfiglioli also takes great pride in his ability to provide consumers with high-quality pipes at reasonable prices. Bonfiglioli makes 11 pipe series. His Rustic, Sandblast, Dark Reddish and Natural pipe series include regular-size pipes, extra-large pipes and freehand pipes. His Collector's Edition series features gold and sterling-silver bands and each pipe is numbered. Bonfiglioli also makes La Stella, Italian for "the star." La Stella pipes are very large, made from flawless briar and decorated with a special gold band, and he has produced only 16 La Stella pipes in 18 years. There is also the Goccia Di Cera, or Carved Downtown, a pipe that has a sterling-silver band. His Morning series is composed of smaller pipes. An avid basketball fan, Bonfiglioli has even named a pipe series after Bologna's professional basketball team, Virtus. Using a rusticated black pipe bowl, he adds a white stem to match Virtus' uniform colors. His newest series, Ursus, is made up of huge pipes in a smooth finish with a gold or sterling-silver band, sandblasted with a sterling-silver band or rusticated with a sterling-silver band. He also produces 25 Christmas pipes every year and each one is sold before it's even made. Altogether, he makes between 400 and 450 pipes a year.

Bonfiglioli uses Grecian and Calabrian briar and he insists that the briar he buys already be seasoned and dry. Because he makes so many large pipes, he uses more Grecian briar because it's cut into bigger blocks, which are harder to find in Italy, and because Greek suppliers more readily accept smaller orders. He also looks for good blocks that likely will produce pipes with good straight grain; however, they are rare. "Very few briar blocks produce perfect pipes anymore," Bonfiglioli says as he slams a card onto the table and picks up another to add to his hand. "If a flaw develops in a pipe that I'm making and I can't sand it out, then I will sandblast or rusticate it. I do not use mastic."

When he is transforming a briar block into a pipe bowl, Bonfiglioli prefers thick walls to protect against burnout. He is also very careful to ensure that the bowl's interior is perfectly smooth. "Otherwise," he says, "it will not smoke well." Occasionally, he coats the bowl's interior with graphite to aid its carbonation to further protect his pipes against burnout.

Most of Bonfiglioli's pipes use acrylic stems, which he orders from a company that cuts them to his specification, and then he hand-finishes them. "Acrylic used to be very hard on the teeth but now they are making it softer," he says. "It's not as soft as vulcanite but it's really improved and it doesn't oxidize like vulcanite." Reservations aside, Bonfiglioli will fit a vulcanite stem onto one of his pipes if a customer prefers it.

"The most important things to consider about a stem is its comfort in the



mouth and if it has very clean lines."

Straight, classical shapes are Bonfiglioli's personal favorite. "Bent pipes are more popular in Italy but straight pipes collect less moisture and are better to smoke, in my opinion," he says. "Classical shapes take less time to make and they sell quickly. Most important, they are more comfortable in the mouth."

Every Bonfiglioli pipe has many marks stamped into it, including the month and year it was made, pipe series name, and shape of the shank, whether it be square, diamond, round or oval. "I believe it's nice that people read something about my pipes when they're smoking them," he says. He changes the stamps every year to aid in identification. For instance, to commemorate the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Bonfiglioli used a stamp of a pentagon with the initials "NY" inside to mark every one of his 2002 pipes. Before giving his pipes their final polishing, he applies his white-triangle trademark to their stems.

The Briscola game is winding down and it appears that Bonfiglioli will win—a good sign, his friends say, laughing, because he hates to lose. When it's his turn, he throws his last card on the table, letting out a triumphant shout and gladly accepting his friends' mumbled congratulations. He sits smiling in the chair for a moment longer before getting up and picking his way back out to the front room, where he grabs a briar block, applies some water to it to bring out the grain and draws a shape onto it. Bonfiglioli has allowed himself an hour of revelry before going back to work. "After all," he says with a wink, "those three pipes were the last ones I had in the shop."

Bonfiglioli pipes are available for purchase online at *www.bonfigliolipipe.it*. ***P&T***

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# On the Classification of Tobacco Blends

by William Serad

I cannot count the number of times I have been discussing blends with fellow pipe aficionados, using language to describe the blends that I thought was clear, concise and generally accepted, only to discover that we had been discussing different things. Actually, we had been discussing the same things on different planes, with uncommon tongues, using different terminology. This is because there exists in the pipe world a certain absence of generally accepted nomenclature to describe blends. It would never be possible to compare impressions if a Balkan to me were not a Balkan to you, and if you were to rate an English, but what it constituted were something different to me from what you were rating.

In the interest of filling the terminology gap, I nominate myself as the big dope to propose definitions of blend typologies. These would be loose enough to encompass a number of variations, but would represent something by agreed definition. So just as my saying "red" gives you a mental image of the color, although perhaps different from mine, we all know what red is. I am the big dope because I would expect this proposition to be akin to tossing a clay pigeon, because there is no community of people more fiercely independent, opinionated and ready with their shotguns than pipe smokers. That is one way of saying I expect feedback and rebuttal. So be kind, gentle reader, and let us educate and inform one another and come to common accord peacefully.

A **Cavendish** is any tobacco that has been cased in some way. The casings may be a variety of substances, usually to sweeten the leaf, including sugar of various types, rum (for a Navy Cavendish), maple, licorice, honey, fruit extracts or similar things. Casings are put on early in the processing of the leaf, usually before cutting, and are not a final top-dressing. A secondary casing may involve humectants to help retain volatile flavorings. The process may involve dipping or spraying the leaf, allowing time for the leaf to absorb it, or pressure or steaming. Leaf may have a Cavendish cut, between a ribbon and a heavy cut, but that does not make it a Cavendish. As well, not all Cavendishes are Cavendish-cut. By this definition, many flakes are Cavendish tobaccos, like the Danish-style flakes, or what the Danish call Scottish, but what I would prefer to call a Scottish flake. An English Cavendish may involve no casing, rather just heat and pressure on Virginia leaf to bring out the natural sweetness.

A **Virginia flake** consists of Virginia leaf pressed and slice-cut. It contains nothing but Virginias, though they may be stoved or not, and is usually matured for quite a while in the pressed cake before slicing. A **flake** more generally may be Virginias, Burley, Maryland, cigar leaf, or Perique processed as a mature Virginia flake. I would like to introduce into the literature the term **Lake District Flake**, which is a flake, usually straight Virginia, that has a top-dressing, including some unbelievable, perfumed sorts of things. A Scottish press may be employed to make any of these, applying heat with the pressure, but this does not change the ingredients. These may be broken, or partially rubbed out. **Pigtails, ropes and twists** all involve a single leaf and a great deal of training, practice and talent. A **roll cake** contains all the ingredients of a blend, but rolled as a cigar but more tightly by a single leaf, and then sliced into coin-shaped disks. A **crumble cake** is a pressed complete blend of any sort that is then sliced, and may be crumbled into dense chunks of the size the smoker pleases to adjust the burn rate.

A **natural** blend consists of what is considered base leaf (not meaning lowly, but fundamental), such as Virginia, Burley or Maryland. There are no flavorings, casings, or top-dressings (volatile flavorings typically sprayed but somehow added as the last step). This does not include humectants to keep the blend moist. These might also be thought of as a sub-type of **American** blends, which may include flavorings—licorice and deer tongue being favorites—and include some of the great old-time blends. Some old American blends also include condimental leaf, such as Perique and Latakia, though they are largely naturals, and I am not quite sure how to place these. Perhaps Americanized English is the correct category.

An **English** blend contains only Virginias, Orientals (Turkish or Greek) and Latakia (Syrian or Cyprian) in a balanced sort of way so all the flavors complement one another and none dominate. It may sometimes have brown Cavendish or Perique as well. An **Americanized English** may also contain Burley, Maryland, or some other base leaf to enrich the taste or take it to a destination other than England. A **Scottish** blend is an English blend that has a heavier Oriental and Latakia component, but which is complemented with black Cavendish, which may replace the Virginia component completely. A **Balkan** blend has an extremely large proportion of Latakia. but the focus is on the Oriental component, with an acrid, heavy, rich taste.

Well, that's my two cents. Disagree? Anything to add? Examples or counter-examples? Let me know... *P&T*

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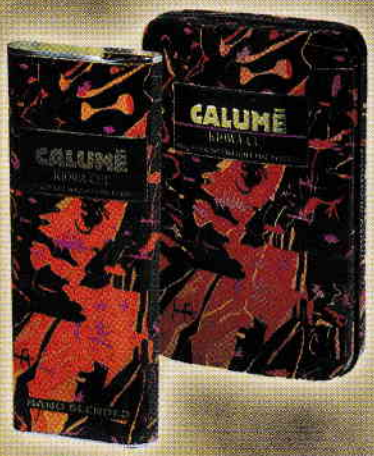


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by Lewis Turco

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It ought to be a large old knot hole,
first of all, surrounded by most of the tree.
Black inside, as though Hell had poked
a smokestack out between your teeth.

Now, heave a wheeze downstem hard until
you've blown a beachful of igneous grains out
into the bowl's bayou. Knock them
onto your palm. Whistle them off

like a ruinous wind. The carpet
will thrive, grow lush as Virginia. Sit back.
Knuckle off the roof of your root
cellar where your tobacco, as

loamy as moss, masses and awaits
a spark's attack. Thumb up a balesworth; trammel
it down deep into the devil's
eye. Snatch up an eruption now

and spang! Puff a belly full of fumes.
Whoof! Off go angels and satyrs; clouds of them
furry thighs and messes of wings
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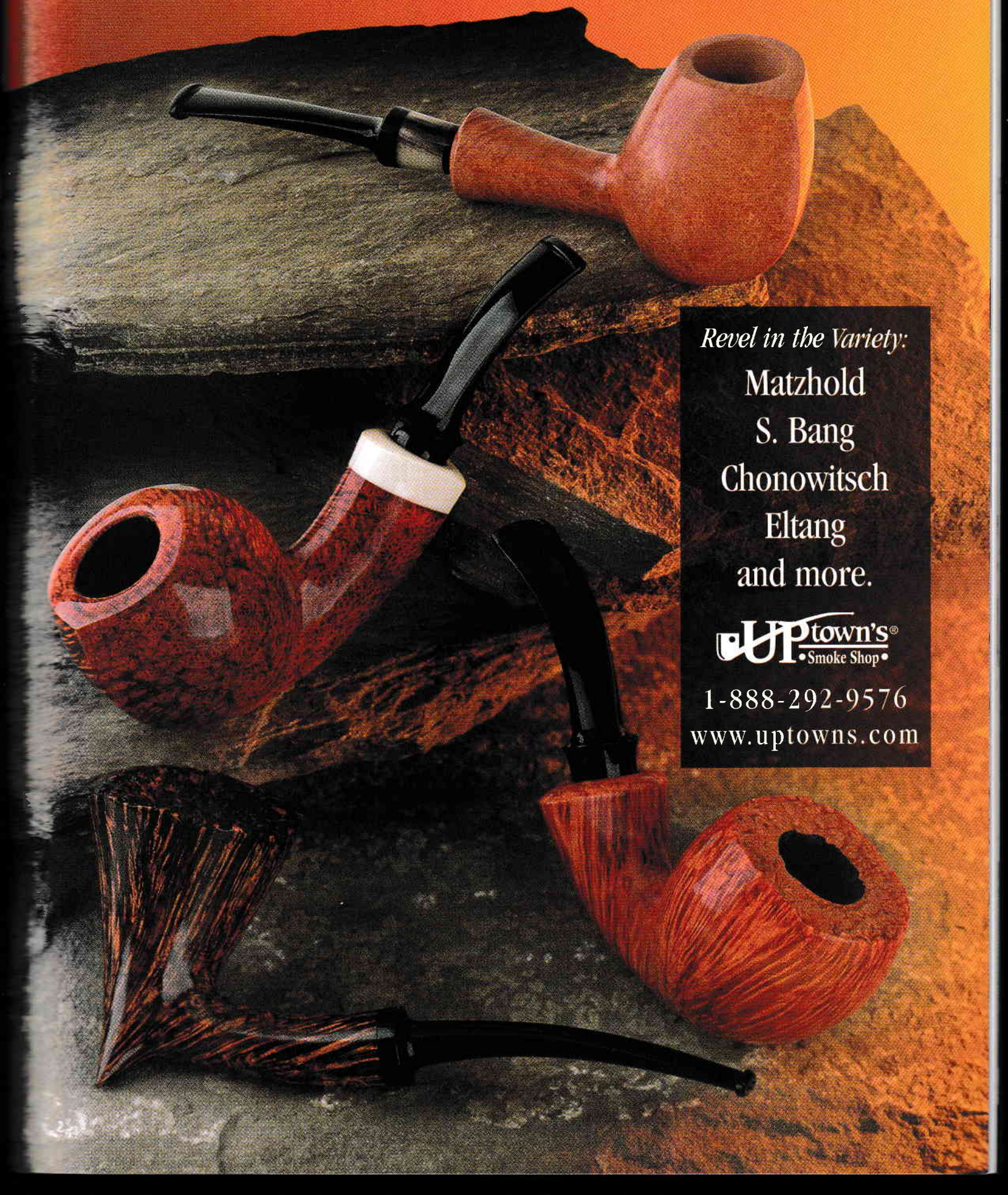

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# Awakening

*German tobacco giant Pöschl hopes new venture with Felipe Gregorio will awaken U.S. interest in its nasal snuff and pipe tobacco.*

by Stephen A. Ross

Approximately an hour's drive northeast from Munich on one of Germany's autobahns is the quaint town of Landshut. Located deep inside Bavaria, Landshut is a village that seemingly sprang up from the pages of a fairy tale book. Perfectly preserved buildings representing Gothic, Romanesque, Baroque, Rococo and neoclassical architectural styles rise three to four stories above the narrow cobblestone streets. The cathedral and ducal palace dominate the skyline and tower far overhead, competing for the honor of highest structure in the city and serving as a reminder of the struggle between church and state for preeminence in the Middle Ages.

*Dr. Ernest Pöschl (left) and Dr. Robert Engels (right) represent the third generation of family ownership of Pöschl Tabak. Opposite page: St. Martin's Cathedral dominates the skyline of Landshut's Alstadt Street.*

It's clear that history is important to Landshut's citizens. They not only painstakingly preserve their architectural heritage, but they also gather every four years to commemorate the 1475 marriage of George, Landshut's ducal heir, to Hedwig, the King of Poland's daughter. The weeklong festival re-creates the pomp and pageantry of Renaissance Germany and townspeople work together for months to prepare the tournaments and feasts surrounding their reenactment of the wedding ceremony.

Landshut has also enjoyed a rich tobacco heritage. Located on the Isar River, the 800-year-old community of 60,000 was once the center of Lower Bavaria's snuff market with more than 20 mills using the Isar's water power to

*Alois Pöschl founded Pöschl Tabak in Landshut, Germany, in 1902. The company solely produced Dopplearoma nasal snuff until after the end of World War II, when it broadened its product lines to include pipe tobaccos, other varieties of nasal snuff and fine-cut tobacco.*

grind the snuff at the turn of the last century. Alois Pöschl, a 29-year-old snuff representative, joined the crowded snuff market on Dec. 24, 1902, opening the Brasil-Tabakfabrik factory, later changing its name to Pöschl Tabak. Today, Pöschl is one of four remaining German tobacco companies and is the only one still operating near Landshut.

Since its inception, Pöschl has always been a family-owned and -operated tobacco business. Dr. Ernst Pöschl and his brother-in-law, Dr. Robert Engels, currently serve on the board of directors of the company, representing the third generation of the family controlling the business.

The company's initial success came from the sale of Schmalzer Doppelaroma nasal snuff, but Pöschl has widened its product profile considerably over the years. It started producing both pipe and fine-cut tobacco in 1949 and started making modern snuff—finely ground nasal snuff enriched with peppermint and eucalyptus oils and menthol—in 1960. Today, Pöschl's entire range of more than 30 pipe tobaccos and 25 varieties of nasal snuff and fine-cut cigarette tobacco products are made at its state-of-the-art 20,000-square-meter facility producing millions of tons of tobacco annually in Geisenhausen, a village approximately five miles from Landshut, to which the company moved in 1995.

Pöschl is well-known in Europe, gathering approximately 50 percent of the international nasal snuff market and five percent of the European Union's tobacco market. However, while some attempts have been made over the years, its products have not yet been successfully integrated into the American market. Breaking into the American market, Pöschl has entered into an agreement with the American company Felipe Gregorio Tobacco World to introduce eight of Pöschl's pipe tobaccos and six of its nasal snuff brands into the United States. Based in Alexandria, Virginia, Felipe Gregorio has been heavily involved in importing and manufacturing premium cigars, including Felipe Gregorio, Petrus, Centenario and OneOff, but the company is now

broadening its product portfolio to include Pöschl's pipe tobaccos and nasal snuffs, as well as Tsuge pipes from Japan.

Smoking a pipe from which emanates a wonderful cherry aroma, Engels stands in the office foyer flanked by Alex Bremer, Pöschl's international sales manager, and Micky Pegg, vice president of national sales for Felipe Gregorio Tobacco World. Dr. Pöschl, Engels explains, is out on business and will be unavailable for the factory tour.

Outside of the office accommodations, Pöschl's headquarters is divided into two sections by a long hallway, with shipping and storage on one side of the hall and tobacco manufacturing on the other. Nearly every step of the tobacco manufacturing process has been mechanized at Pöschl, and the buzz of the machineries' engines fills the air in the immaculately clean factory.

Engels, Bremer and Pegg lead the way into the storage room where tobacco bales rise from floor to ceiling. Some of the tobacco is stored in Pöschl's warehouse for years before it's considered aged enough to be used in the company's products. No matter what product comes out of the Pöschl factory, consumers can be sure that it meets the highest quality criteria. In 1995, Pöschl was accredited DIN ISO 9001 status—the highest quality ranking issued by the German government, guaranteeing Pöschl's commitment to excellence.

"We send our tobacco buyers around the world to find the best tobacco. On average, it takes 30 different types of tobacco to make one of our pipe tobacco blends. It would be easier for us to use inferior tobaccos and hide their inferiority with flavorings; however, we will not do that," says Engels, who has been with the company for 30 years.

The group moves across the hall into the manufacturing room where pipe and fine-cut tobaccos are made. There are many tobacco mounds lying in bins that line the room's walls. Each bin is labeled with a code number that categorizes the tobacco according to Pöschl's numbering system. When a particular blend of tobacco needs to be made, a worker will gather the various tobaccos

according to the bin numbers and the materials will be blended. The selected tobacco is placed on a conveyor belt and run through a machine that smoothes the leaves and removes the thick ribs. The tobacco's flavor is then improved using natural flavorings according to Pöschl's secret recipes before it's placed in another machine that cuts the mixture to the desired width. After cutting and roasting, the tobacco is finally aromatized using additional flavorings such as fruit and fine spirits.

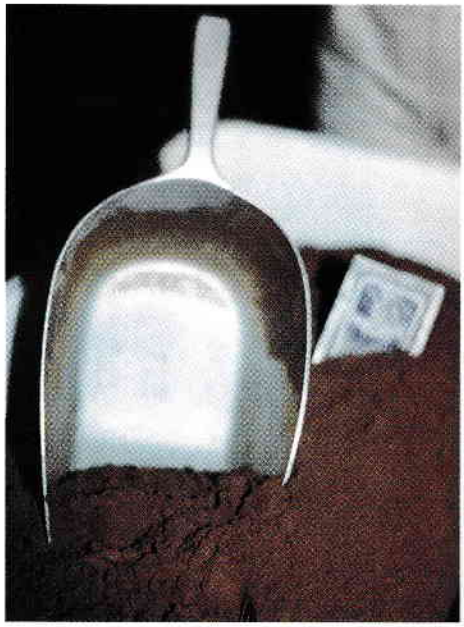
Eight of Pöschl's tobacco blends—Golden Blend's Mild Chocolate, Vanilla Supermild and Blue Train; Exclusiv's Sherry & Cherry, Royal and Wild Mango; Brookfield Aromatic; and Thomas Radford's Sunday Fantasy—are currently available in the United States.

The Exclusiv series includes Sherry & Cherry, a blend featuring high-quality Spanish sherry and the aroma of ripe cherries; Royal, a blend consisting of mild Virginias, aromatic toasted Burleys and spicy Orientals; and Wild Mango, which has an exotic mango flavor. Golden Blend's Mild Chocolate is blended with Burley, Cavendish and black Cavendish with a hint of chocolate flavoring, making it the first chocolate-flavored tobacco; and its Vanilla Supermild is made using Virginia and Burley tobaccos and vanilla flavoring. Brookfield features a blend of Virginia, Burley and Java tobaccos with just a touch of vanilla flavoring. Thomas Radford Sunday Fantasy uses Virginias and black Cavendish that's flavored with fruit, creating a mild taste. "Although these are all aromatic blends, they are very mild on the tongue

and they won't burn too hot because of Pöschl's insistence on using high-quality tobacco," Pegg concludes.

Located next to the pipe and fine-cut tobacco blending room is the nasal snuff manufacturing room. Pöschl uses the same high-quality leaf tobacco in its nasal snuffs as it uses in its other tobacco products; however, nasal snuff is made using a different method from other tobacco products. The tobacco is dried before it's placed in high-speed grinders that grind it into a very fine powder. The different types of tobacco powder, called provenances, are then mixed to produce the different blends. Pöschl demands that its nasal snuff blends are matched to produce consistency in color, taste and smell.

After blending the provenances, the tobacco is moistened and stored for four weeks in an air-conditioned room in



which it develops its snuff aroma. During a final mixing process, the tobacco is improved using natural flavorings such as peppermint oil, menthol and extracts from fruits and spices.

When it comes to nasal snuff, Engels and Pöschl are missionaries who are anxious to preach to people about its benefits. They have even sent representatives to German airports to distribute samples of the company's 25 nasal snuff products for people to try where they cannot smoke. Efforts like these have been tremendously successful for the company, which has virtually cornered the European nasal snuff market, and it is hoping for similar success in the United States.

According to Engels, nasal snuff has always enjoyed success in Europe. It was the first form of tobacco introduced on the continent in the 16th century. "Snuff was the most popular choice for nobility," Engels says. "Jean Nicot was a French ambassador who was introduced to tobacco when he was in Portugal negotiating a proposed marriage between the young King of Portugal and the French king Françoise II's daughter. The marriage never took place, but Nicot's travels were not useless," Engels laughs. "He believed in tobacco's curative powers and sent a small quantity of snuff to Catherine de Medici, Françoise II's mother, to relieve her son's headaches." From that moment, snuff usage spread rapidly throughout the French court and other royal families began to use it as well. Nasal snuff became the tobacco of choice for much of Europe's aristocratic class.

Pöschl has been extremely successful in introducing the use of nasal snuff to the general population, and today there are more than a million consumers in Germany alone. Pöschl and Engels hope that the introduction of six of their nasal snuff brands into the American market will meet with similar success.

Thanks to the new partnership with Felipe Gregorio, American consumers are now able to purchase Gawith Apricot, a mild and fruity snuff blend; Ozona President, a blend featuring spicy eucalyptus oils; Ozona Raspberry, a refreshing snuff with an aroma of wild raspberries; Gletscherprise, which is mild and fresh and uses Columbia oil; Packard's Club, which has a discreet, fruity aroma; and Pöschl's newest snuff, Silverstone Orange+, which is an extraordinarily mild snuff that is a perfect introduction for beginning snuff-takers. Silverstone Orange+ uses the finest orange and citrus oils and menthol, giving it a pleasant fruity aroma and a refreshing quality.

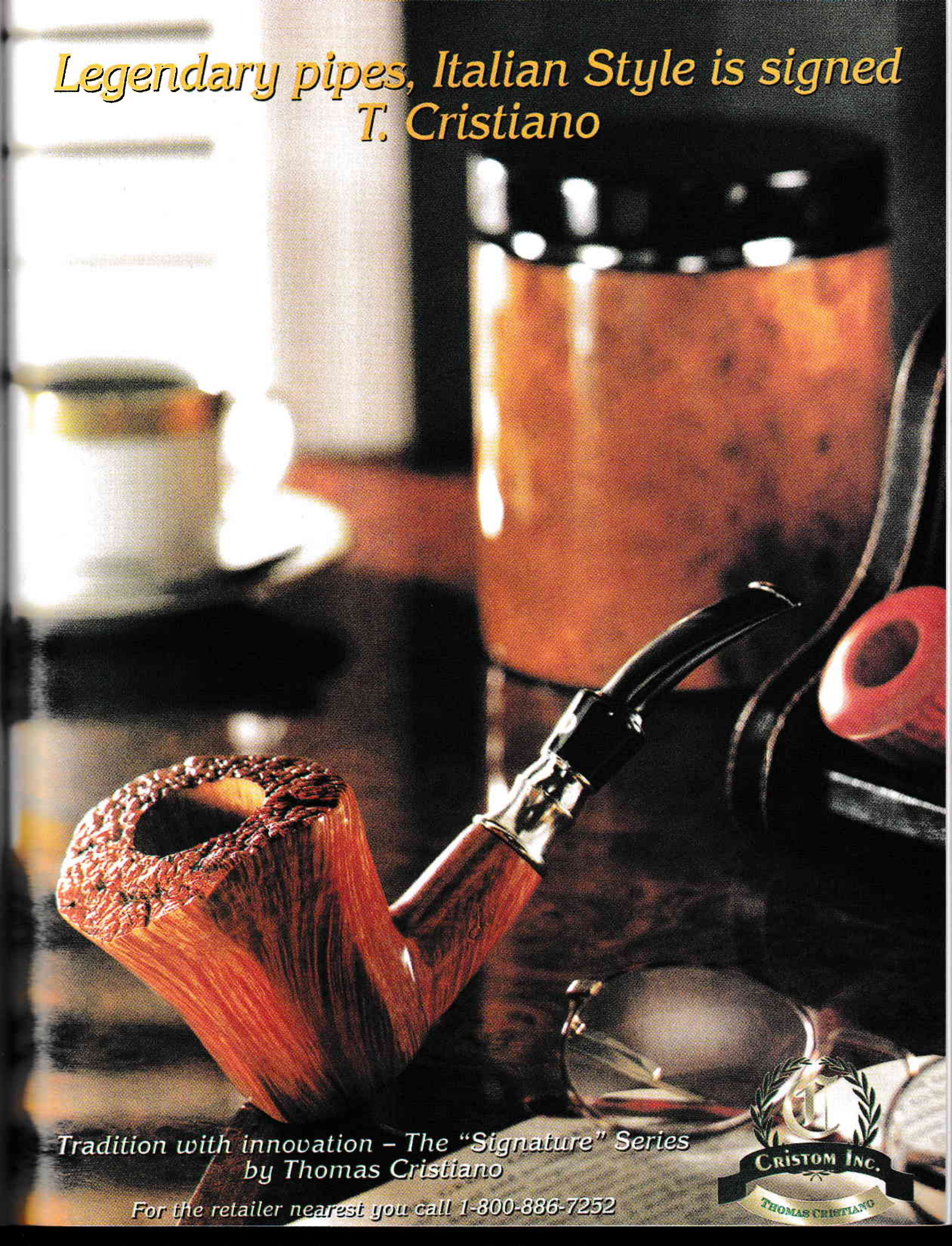
In today's anti-smoking political climate, there are fewer public places in which a smoker can enjoy a cigarette, cigar or pipe. Forced to refrain from lighting up, smokers have sought alternative methods to enjoy tobacco. Sales of synthetic products such as nicotine gum and nicotine patches have become popular; however, Engels insists there is a better option available. "Nasal snuff is the perfect alternative to smoking. It's a tobacco product that can be consumed anywhere and there is no byproduct of snuff usage that could upset anyone, and I am unaware of any harmful effects of snuff-taking," Engels says as he hands out samples of Silverstone Orange+.

"Snuff-taking technique is very important so that it can be fully enjoyed," Engels says. "However, it's extremely easy to master. Place a small pinch on the back of your hand or between the ends of your fingers, bring it to your nose and inhale slowly to ensure that the powder is evenly distributed throughout the nose."

"Just imagine that you're smelling a flower," Pegg adds. "If it's sniffed too strongly, the snuff will not be effective and it will block the nose."

Following these simple instructions can awaken one to an entirely new world of tobacco enjoyment. An immediate and pleasant tingling sensation occurs within the nasal cavity, opening the nasal passages and clearing the sinuses. The tingling slowly fades—however, Silverstone Orange+'s aroma remains for several minutes. Sampling Pöschl's other brands provides similar effects.

"Snuff is not trendy and it's been around for years," Engels says. "It's likely to grow even more popular as it becomes more difficult to smoke publicly. My family has been involved in this business for 100 years and we've maintained our respect for the company's products, its history and the idealism of Alois Pöschl while adapting to fit the times." *P&T*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# Snuff's the stuff

*More popular hundreds of years ago than today, nasal snuff has become an alternative to smoking for many as smoking restrictions tighten*

by Chase Parker Turner and Charles Dull

In the United States and the remaining developed world, there is an ever-increasing war against the public use of smoking tobacco. Whether enjoying a cigar, pipe or cigarette, you have probably been ostracized for practicing your adult right to smoke. With crippling monetary settlements and mounting taxes, smoking tobaccos have been placed in the cross hairs of the sociopolitical left, forcing the smoker to pay higher costs for his choice to partake. If the squeeze of higher-smoking tobacco costs has affected your purse strings, your psyche or your lifestyle, then you may want to consider picking up nasal snuff as an occasional alternative to the pipe. Not to be confused with oral tobaccos, nasal snuff (light pinches of finely ground tobacco inhaled through the nostrils) has its own rich and diverse history.

Produced by grinding tobacco leaf into a fine powder, nasal snuff is the most economical form of tobacco consumption today, and for that matter, the most efficient form created since the first recording of tobacco consumption. First recorded in accounts of Columbus' adventures to the New World, the practice of taking snuff was etched into history more than 500 years ago. Nasal snuff has remained on the tobacco market the entire time, while other practices such as "tobacco tea" have fallen out of favor. ▶

*Horn snuff mulls are typically early Georgian (approx. 1730-1830) and of Scottish influence. This example is part of the collection at the Wilson Snuff Mill at Sharrow Moor, Sheffield, England.*

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*The Wilson Snuff Mill is a protected historical site, though it is still a working business. The smaller buildings at center date to somewhere between 1639 and 1654. A fire in 1763 gutted the mill and the manor homes at left and right were added in the mid-1700s.*

Globally, millions of snuff consumers can be found taking the fine-ground "flour" in a scented or unscented form. Snuff is currently produced in, but not exclusive to, both continents of the Americas, the European countries of England, Germany, France and Portugal, and India. The two major European imported snuffs are Pöschl from Germany (offering six flavors) and Wilsons of Sharrow from England (offering 27 flavors). Both meet various consumer desires. The Pöschl snuff tends to be thicker-milled flour, moistened by a secret oil substance, and mentholated. The Wilsons of Sharrow snuff is generally fine-milled and drier, and uses only water and natural essences in its blends, with flavors ranging from unscented to floral, fruit and mentholated. Many manufacturers and consumers from many nationalities have added their tile to the mosaic of nasal snuff's rich history.

Nasal snuffs' forms or varieties vary as greatly as the varieties of pipe tobaccos on today's market. As with pipe tobaccos, snuff has various textures, moistures, flavors and qualities to answer the vast spectrum of palates. There are three distinct varieties of snuff size which are known by their French names—*fin*, *demi gros* and *gros*.

*Fin* is the finer, typically drier, snuff. *Fin* varieties reveal the more subtle aspects of snuff because they can cover more of the nasal passageways and facilitate faster transfer of the powder's scent and taste into the membranes of the nose. This powder can turn the initiate into a sneezing machine because it's easy to oversnuff, which occurs when you take the snuff with too much effort, leaving it in the back of your throat and upper sinuses. While these are perhaps the hardest snuffs to master, they are well worth it, so sniff gently.

The next size is the medium-flour snuff, *demi gros*. Neither too light nor too coarse, this size comprises the majority of snuff on the market today. *Demi gros* is much easier to take than *fin* and is the perfect balance of size and scent for the initiate as well as the experienced snuff user. The moisture content of this size varies, but most are slightly moist.

The last size, *gros*, has lost popularity through the years. A name synonymous with this size is that of Rappee, which (among other things) was the name for the coarse-flour snuff that people ground themselves using their own snuff grinders. Most *gros* snuffs were made from darker tobaccos and were typically left unscented; however, the professionally made *gros* snuffs of today are scented. These tend to provide the longest amount of scent duration in the nose because of stalk that's added to the blend. Stalk is very porous and initially holds flavor but will cause the snuff to dry out prematurely.

Color is not necessarily an indication of the quality of snuff. Snuff colors range from light golden brown to dark maroon or black. Color can be an indication of the manufacturing and curing process that was used with the tobacco. In general, it's best not to think of color as an indication of quality or strength.

You can find snuff in any color and in any flour size; that said, snuff can be broken down into two main types: scented and unscented. Flavorings come in many

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*The upper level of the mill still houses the snuff-grinding chamber. Though not used for current production, the mortars and pestles are still attached to the drive shaft and can be run from the water wheel.*

forms, such as peppermint, menthol, attar of roses, whiskey, apple, citrus, and floral varieties too numerous to mention. Most snuff manufactured today is scented. Unlike pipe tobacco, what you smell is what you get. There is no degradation in the flavor of the snuff before you take a pinch, unlike the more aromatic pipe tobaccos that invoke such sweet smells as chocolate and cherry but deliver a taste that is different once consumed by fire.

On the other hand, there are natural, or unscented, snuffs. One of the most popular varieties (meaning general recipes that are not always the same from manufacturer to manufacturer) is High Dry Toast. High Dry Toast snuff blends use tobaccos that have been toasted, or fired, and generally have no scent whatsoever. You owe it to yourself to try the scented and unscented varieties, as they both present equally refreshing ranges of scents and tastes.

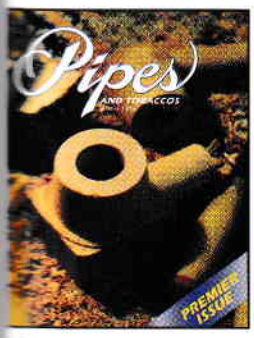
All of these are characteristics that may help you discern the differences in snuff and help to form your preferences. Keep these qualities in mind when trying a new snuff in order to better educate your palate and discern which snuff is the one for you.

In order to preserve snuff, it's imperative to keep it in an airtight container located in a cool, dry place. Snuff's worst enemy is air, which relieves the snuff of its moisture and oils that comprise the scent. After taking snuff for a short time, you will be able to detect the degradation in flavor if the snuff has not been properly preserved.

Snuff requires accouterments; a handkerchief is perhaps the most vital. As the saying goes, "What goes up must come down." The handkerchief, ideally dark in color, can help to dust snuff from your fingertips and nose, as well as help keep the nose in order. You will need a snuffbox if you decide to take snuff out with you. The only requirement for a snuffbox is that it keeps out unnecessary air and that it doesn't allow the flour to spill into your pocket. Also, it's important to keep only as much snuff as you need for a day's supply, so as not to damage the snuff by overexposure to air. In order to keep snuff at home, many fine purveyors sell jars that are airtight and are specifically designed for this purpose.

There are many methods of taking snuff. All of them are correct because they get the snuff to the nose. To that end, the most traditional method of taking snuff is by gently grabbing a pinch between the thumb and forefinger and gently sniffing the powder into each nostril. Some prefer to take the snuff off the back of the hand where the thumb and forefinger meet (also known as the "poor man's snuffbox") while others prefer to use a small spoon to lift the powder to the nose. Just remember to take a light sniff in order to appreciate the full taste and aroma of the snuff and to avoid over-snuffing. Again, all of these work, and in time you will find the method that works best for you.

Although this is just a brief description of the history, variety and methodology of nasal snuff, it's enough to get you to try the most discreet and non-offensive form of enjoying tobacco. In today's anti-tobacco environment, it's best to remember Wilsons of Sharrow's motto, "Smoke when you can, snuff when you can't." Happy snuffing, and bless you and your first snuff-induced sneeze. *P&T*



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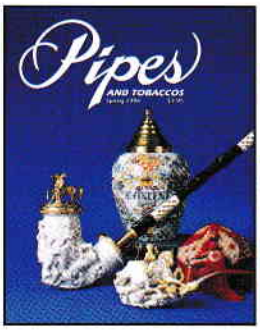
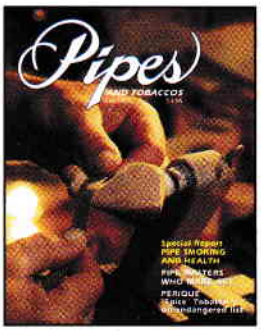
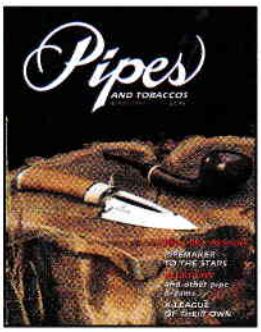


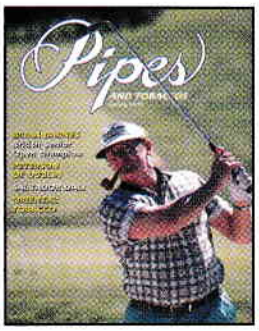
Vol. 1, Issue 2 (Spr. 96)



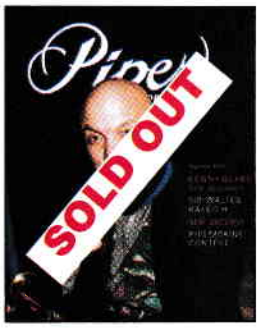
Vol. 1, Issue 3 (Fall 96)



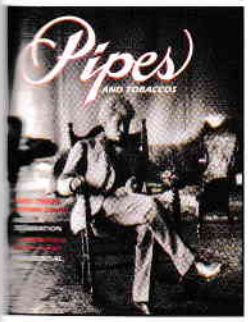
Vol. 1, Issue 4 (Win. 97)



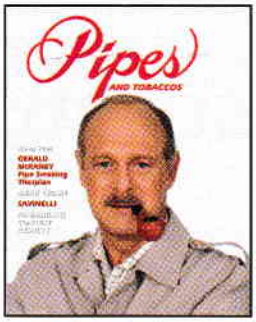
Vol. 2, Issue 1 (Spr. 97)



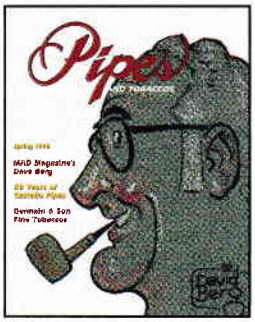
Vol. 2, Issue 2 (Sum. 97)



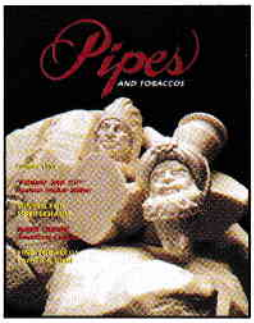
2, Issue 3 (Fall 97)



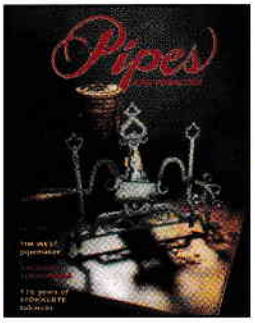
Vol. 2, Issue 4 (Win. 98)



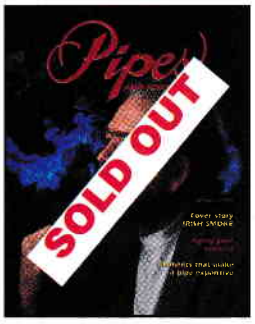
Vol. 3, Issue 1 (Spr. 98)



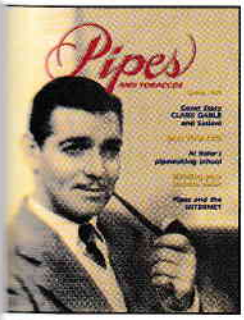
Vol. 3, Issue 2 (Sum. 98)



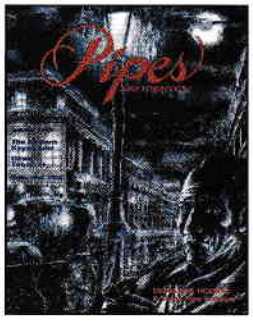
Vol. 3, Issue 3 (Fall 98)



Vol. 3, Issue 4 (Win. 99)

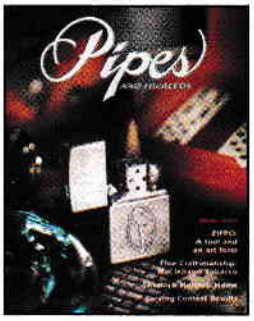


4, Issue 1 (Spr. 99)

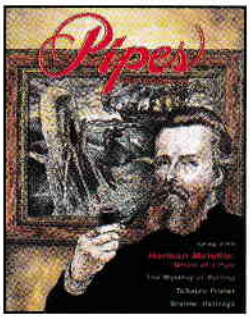


Vol. 4, Issue 2 (Sum. 99)

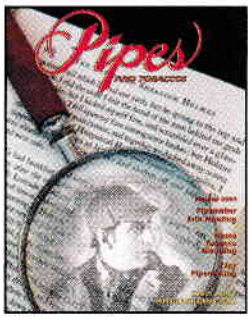
Vol. 4, Issue 3 (Fall 99)



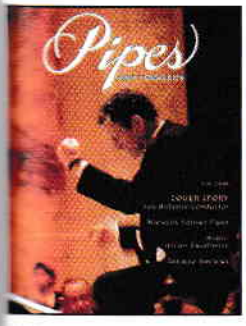
Vol. 4, Issue 4 (Win. 00)



Vol. 5, Issue 1 (Spr. 00)



Vol. 5, Issue 2 (Sum. 00)



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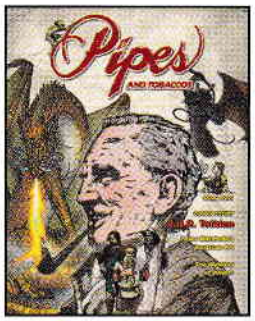

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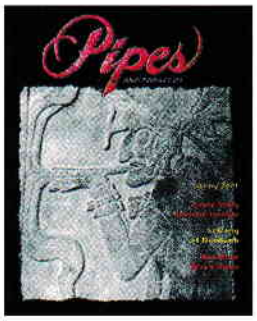

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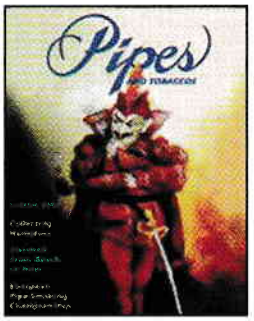

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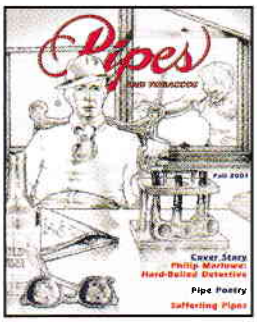

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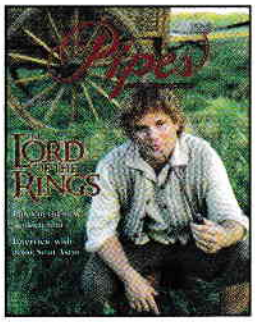
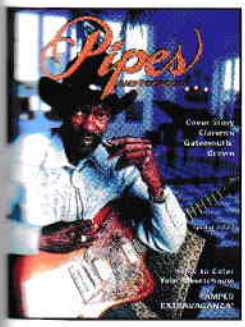
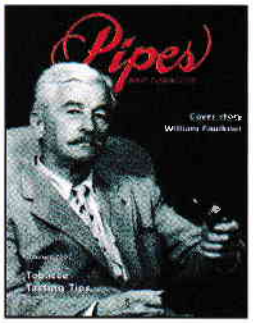


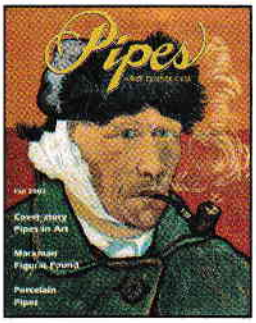
Vol. 6, Issue 4 (Win. 02)



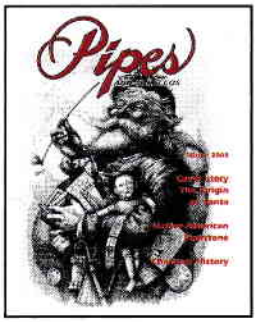
7, Issue 1 (Spr. 02)



Vol. 7, Issue 2 (Sum. 02)



Vol. 7, Issue 3 (Fall 02)



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# Further Reflections on Coloring a Meerschaum

by Ben Rapaport

In light of Stephen A. Ross' article, "Pipe smoking—meerschaum-style" in the Spring 2002 issue of *P&T*, and the 2002 *P&T* meerschaum pipe-coloring contest whose winners are identified in this issue, I looked through my archives to excerpt what a few smoker-sages and others recommended as an appropriate procedure for coloring a meerschaum. Based on the several following citations, it is evident that there was never universal agreement on the right, best, or only method. What can be said is that the color achieved depends, in large measure, on a number of factors, so the reader should decide if any of the following bygone methods are worthy of further consideration.

It is generally accepted that different processes are used to color block meerschaum and pressed meerschaum, and it can often be difficult to discern or explain the differences between the two substances. Moreover, block meerschaum can be either soft or hard, with the former absorbing more wax during the finishing process. Therefore, it stands to reason that a pipe of soft meerschaum requires more heat in order to give it a uniform chestnut color.

It's quite the challenge to metamorphose this white mineral, even with fervent smoking, to a uniform golden-honey or brown color. Sidney P. Ram, once a Chicago-area tobacconist and author, asserted in *How to Get More Fun Out of Smoking* (1941): "Few smokers have success in coloring their meerschaums naturally by the smoking process. It is sometimes wise for them to have their meerschaums artificially colored or do this themselves." Ram was not alone in his conviction. George Herment (*The Pipe*, 1954) graphically explained: "...of all pipes the meerschaum alone has the faculty of mellowing into a truly marvellous range of colours. These hues progress from a golden white to a rich brown, passing through the delicate pink of a china rose, a faint yellow, a golden yellow, pale orange, pinky brown, a light leather brown, warm brown, red brown, dark brown to an eventual black." Oliver Wendell Holmes was more prosaic in *Autocrat at the Breakfast Table* (1858): "First, a discoloration, then a stain, and at last, glowing umber tint spreading over the whole surface. Nature, true to her brown autumnal hue, you see—as true in the fire of the meerschaum as in the sunshine of October!"

Now, turning back the clock, *Specification of Charles Louis Blum. Apparatus for Smoking and Colouring Pipes*, a two-page diagram published on July 27, 1859, in London, is probably the first English-language citation to mention the coloration process. It is a simple drawing of an apparatus, accompanied by a verbal description, and the only copy in existence in the United States is secreted in Duke University's Perkins Library. Another obscure English piece is an anonymously written and undated (probably post-1860, because the author mentions Crimea) 15-page pamphlet: *THE MEERSCHAUM: How to Choose. Smoke. and Colour it. Containing the result, in a concise and practical form, of the experience of the best smokers at home and abroad.* At the outset, the author asks: "How do I manage my meerschaum? How do I give it that depth and richness of colour in the bowl,—colour which I can compare to nothing but the tone of pine-apple rum,—and that creamy softness in the stem, which is the admiration of every smoker?" Although the title promises much, the guidance is somewhat disappointing, for he offers six common-sense rules that apply to smoking any pipe, cautions the smoker to use only Cavendish tobacco and to insert a plug (see later in this article), and then concludes, with restraint: "The results depend on the genius of the student."

How about a bit of coloration quackery? The Oct. 24, 1870, issue of the *London Figaro*, "How to Colour your Meerschaum," describes an automata, a Zouave drummer who smokes a pipe and simultaneously plays the drum. "It at once strikes us how useful such an automation as this would be for colouring the pipes of smokers not quite equal to the task themselves." In the 11-year run of *Cope's Tobacco Plant* (1870-1881), frequent reference was made to pipe-colorers "who hire themselves to pipe-sellers or connoisseurs by the week, or day, or hour, to smoke so many ounces or pounds of strong Tobacco through such and such pipes in such and such a time, with the view of causing such and such stains of Tobacco-juice to make themselves visible on the bowls or stems of those specified pipes."

The illustrated catalogs of George Zorn & Co., Philadelphia, a late 19th-century importer and distributor of tobacco articles, are a gold mine of information on what was

manufactured for smokers. The circa-1892 edition contains "How to Color Meerschaum," which suggests that (a) "new meerschaum bowls must be smoked out to the bottom in order to give them a uniform heat, as, if this is not done, the wax will not withdraw uniformly, and therefore cause an uneven color"; and (b) "meerschaum bowls and pipes should never be covered with leather or cloth...as it results in great disadvantages: *first*, the pipes cannot evaporate enough; *second*, the wax, which melts through the heat, sticks to the leather or cloth, hardens, and gives the article a muddy brownish color."

*Mems. for Tobacconists* (London, 1909) states that the color should have an even borderline about halfway down the bowl, that the heat from burning tobacco melts the wax, and that the color will not stay where the wax has dissipated. A plug, or button, of meerschaum (rather than one of cork or tobacco) is fitted in the bowl slightly above the place where the smoker wishes the line to strike. And, the thinner the bowl, the lower the wax would burn, so the plug must be placed relatively high in the bowl, and another plug is placed somewhat lower as soon as an even line is struck.

W.A. Brennan, in *Tobacco Leaves Being a Book of Facts for Smokers* (1915), claimed the time required to color a pipe depends on the type of tobacco—e.g., a rich, oily tobacco shortened, and a dry tobacco lengthened, the coloring time. He also stated that artificial coloration was applied only to cheap imitation meerschaum pipes, boiling the pipe in an oily solution of nicotine—oil of tobacco, olive oil and yellow wax—for about 10 to 15 minutes, after which the bowl was ready to be polished.

Carl Avery Werner, the editor of *The Tobacco Leaf*, New York, included a chapter in *Tobaccoland* (1922), "Coloring Meerschaums Artificially," in which he described "setting" a natural color without smoking the pipe:

- **Cleaning:** Scrape out the interior, clean the exterior with a chicken feather and alcohol, remove the stem, and bake the bowl in an oven set at 130 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Removing scratches and dents:** Use linseed oil and No. 0 pumice stone applied to a piece of soft flannel, rub the surface with oxalic acid, and set aside for three or four hours.
- **Burning in the color:** Create an airtight bowl by plugging it with a cork, and seal the draw hole with plaster of Paris. Mix aniline dye, oxblood, Soudan brown, and linseed oil into a paste, and rub this mixture evenly around the outside of the bowl. Burn in the color over an alcohol lamp.
- **Polishing in the color:** When the bowl is cool, polish it by rubbing the surface lightly with rottenstone and water, applied with a piece of cotton flannel.

*Pipe Lovers* magazine contained frequent discussions about coloring meerschaums. Ed Kolpin Jr., founder of Tinder Box International, offered his views in the August 1947 issue: "The answer depends entirely upon the amount of proper smoking given the pipe, upon the thickness of the bowl, the size and capacity of the bowl, the speed with which each bowlful is smoked, and the type of tobacco that is smoked in it. But on average, some 200 pipefuls will be required, and the length of time will be anywhere from a year to year and a half." In the May 1948 issue, C. K. Tillotson proposed two ideas to speed the coloring process: First, smoke the pipe in the usual manner, and as soon as the tobacco is consumed, wrap the bowl in soft flannel, and lay the pipe in a warm place, because the heat will continue to darken the color for a longer period of time. Second, as soon as the pipe is fully smoked, remove the mouthpiece and place the bowl in an oven at low temperature, keeping the oven-door open, because "oven heat can be used daily without harm, and the color will often appear within a week or ten days."

Thirty years later, Carl Ehwa Jr. echoed the opinion of Kolpin Jr. He reported that when smoked naturally, a meerschaum might not change color for two or three years, but he offered a bit of "heated" advice on how to speed up changing the pipe's color on pages 94 and 95 in *The Book of Pipes & Tobaccos* (1974). However, he cautioned: "This whole operation, though it works, is rather tricky..." so he simply confessed: "Just smoke the pipe and be patient." I, too, believe in curing a meerschaum the old-fashioned way, puffing one bowl at a time. After all, I've metamorphosed gradually over the past 66 years, so I am in no hurry to have my meerschaums change their outward appearance overnight.

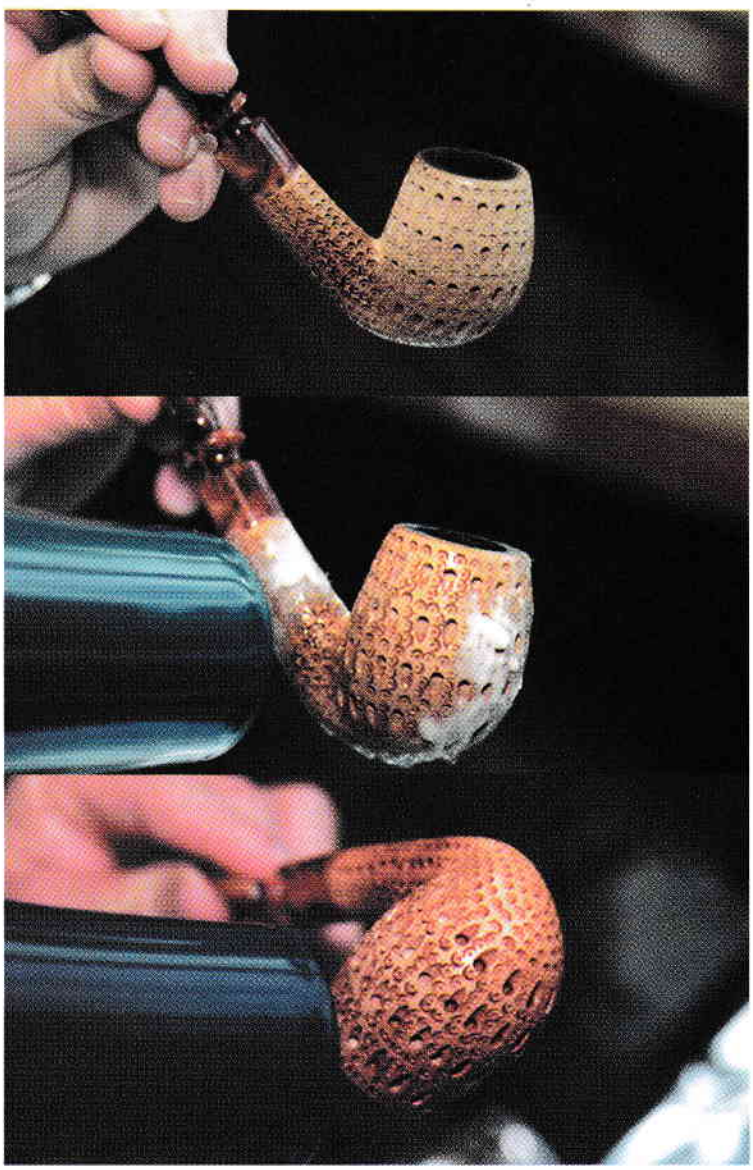
In conclusion, to those who've not had much success coloring a meerschaum, be thankful that you've not experienced the fate of one who tried to color his pipe and failed. That person's travails are recounted in "Meerschaum," an Ambrose Bierce definition cum poem written under one of his several pseudonyms, Martin Bulstrode, that appears in his irreverent *The Devil's Dictionary* (1911). The second to the last stanza reads:

*Dead, pipe in mouth, the youngster lay,*
*Nut-brown in face and limb. "That pipe's a lovely white," they say, "But it has colored him!"* **P&T**

*Next time I demand my own smoking room, I'll stipulate a TV.*

# How to Color Your Meerschaum Pipe: A Quicker Method Explored

by Rick Newcombe



After struggling unsuccessfully for 20 years to color meerschaum pipes, I have finally figured out how to do it.

There is a three-step process, and I absolutely guarantee that you will be able to turn your white meerschaum bowls to a golden-brown color, like an evenly roasted marshmallow, or, if you prefer something darker, to a reddish-black color similar to a Bing cherry.

**STEP 1:** Smoke the pipe. Some people prefer meerschaum to briar, while other pipe smokers use meerschaum for a change of pace. Either way, the whole point is to enjoy smoking your meerschaum pipes.

**STEP 2:** Blow smoke on your pipe. Remember when you bought your first meerschaum and your tobacconist told you the bowl would gradually turn brown as you smoked it? What he failed to mention was that it might take 30 years of daily smoking for the pipe to color deeply.

In *The Ultimate Pipe Video*, Rick Hacker drops his meerschaum pipe into a wide-mouthed jar, blows smoke into the jar, and then tightens the lid. That's really all there is to Step 2, although I would recommend placing a small pipe stand inside the jar or figuring out some other way to prevent the meerschaum from directly touching the jar.

One way would be to place a paper towel on the bottom of the jar, and then put the pipe bowl on the paper towel. You can rotate the bowl to a different position each day, using a clean paper towel each day, so that one day you are blowing smoke to the pipe's left side, another day to the right side, then to the bottom, front and top on successive days — so the pipe will color evenly.

Tony Rodriguez, a pipemaker friend, bought an ordinary plastic jar, drilled some holes in the sides and bottom and attached wooden pegs in the inside of the jar, so that a meerschaum bowl can be rotated on a regular basis.

The inside of the jar will turn very dark over time, but this is easily cleaned out with S.O.S or even with a wet cloth.

**STEP 3:** Melt beeswax into the meerschaum. We have

Beth Sermet of SMS Meerschaum to thank for this step. Beth uses a powerful hair dryer, but I prefer a hot air gun because it is much faster.

Place clear beeswax in a container such as an empty tobacco tin, then blast hot air from the gun or hair dryer to melt the beeswax until it is mostly liquid.

Dip a Q-Tip into the melted wax and rub it on the meerschaum bowl. Do this again and again until the entire bowl is covered in beeswax, using as many Q-Tips as necessary. You might have to remelt the wax several times because it hardens quickly.

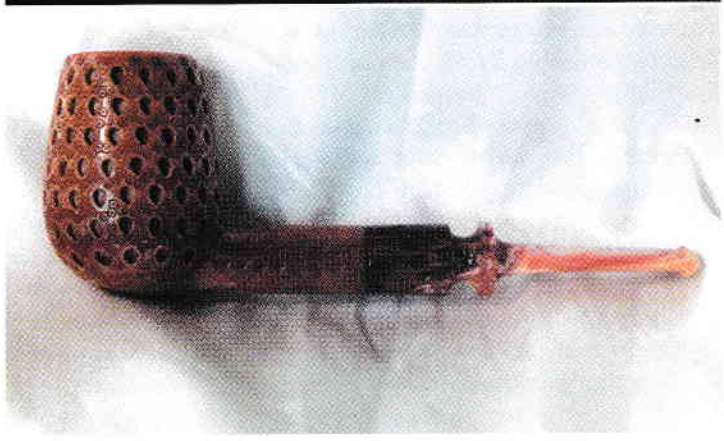
Your pipe will look as if it is coated in vanilla frosting after the melted wax hardens. Don't worry if some of the cotton from the Q-Tips spreads onto the pipe.

Hold the pipe by the mouthpiece over a wastebasket and blast the bowl with your hot air gun, watching the wax drip off the bowl. Wipe off the bowl with a clean paper towel.

You will be amazed at how brown the bowl turns as the melted wax drips off. Unfortunately, the bowl will lighten in color after it cools off. But that's all right—because you are seeing what your pipe will look like in the future.

All of these steps have been common knowledge for years. My only contribution was to use all three in combination — using Step 1 or Step 2 every day and Step 3 once a month.

This system is all-natural, and it works every time. ***P&T***



*The result of this method is a pipe with a deep brown wood-like color, as shown at the left and above.*

# *P&T* 2002 Meerschaum Pipe Coloring Contest Results

Of the 200 pipes sent out to those who entered our Meerschaum Pipe Coloring Contest, about 70 were returned for judging after the six-month smoking period. As may be imagined, every possible permutation of color was evident in the pipes, from virgin white to black. Most of the pipes showed dark coloring on the shanks, with the bowls maintaining a lighter color. In a couple of extreme cases, the bowls seemed not to have colored at all, while the shanks became densely black.

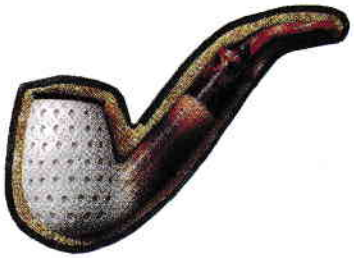
We think one thing at least may be assumed from the results: Not all meerschaum pipes have the same coloring characteristics. It would have been better, perhaps, had we been able to acquire exactly the same shape for each contestant, but the best we could do was to provide approximately the same overall size, and they were all lattice-carved. However, as you will see from the notes provided by contestants, results were not consistent. Some pipes smoked hundreds of times did not color as well as some smoked merely dozens of times. We think that the meerschaum itself, as a natural material, differs somewhat from pipe to pipe. All of these pipes were block meerschaum, and there is some consistency in that, but just as with briar, individual blocks of meerschaum must have slightly different potential.

The pipes pictured here were chosen as examples, so that you may judge for yourself the different techniques used. The wide difference in number of smokes makes it difficult to assess any particular tobacco for coloring efficiency. However, we have provided notes from the contestants, along with photos of their pipes, so that you may see how the different strategies worked.

The winning entry, belonging to John Goldberg, was not the darkest of the pipes, but it did reflect an excellent evenness, rich tone, and pleasing color over the whole pipe. Other participants who used a coloring bowl for the entire contest tended to get better results in terms of evenness of color than did those who smoked directly from the meerschaum pipes. However, there were still those who did not fare well, and a couple of entrants clearly stated that they did not like the coloring bowls. So coloring bowls are not a perfect answer, though they do seem to help the majority. The final assessment? We don't have one, though slow smoking does seem to be a factor in most of the more successful entries. Here are the pipes, with notes from their owners:

I decided the tobacco I would use for this contest would be a Benjamin Hartwell blend called Evening Stroll. The reason for my choice was for its balanced taste and aroma. I took your advice to enjoy myself while smoking my pipe, and purchased this tobacco at my local shop, The Wharf, in Beavercreek, Ohio. I held the pipe by the stem for the first 10 smokes. After this break-in period, I held the bowl and smoked as I do all my other meerschaums. Generally, I smoked between two and four pipefuls each day. After each smoke I ran a pipe cleaner through the stem and shank, blew through the stem to remove any debris, twisted a coarse paper towel into the bowl to prevent cake build-up, and returned the pipe to its case after each smoke to maintain the warmth of the bowl as long as possible. I smoked the pipe approximately 350 times, with a rest of five days after each 50 smokes.

Irvin Collins



I do not really expect to win unless you have a category for coloring just the stem. I smoked the pipe once or twice a day for most of the time I had it, except for times I was out of town. I also tried to let it rest once when I thought it was saturated. I smoked mostly a Burley-based Latakia mixture from Cascade Tobaccos called Perfection, but I also smoked some dark flake from Gawith and Hogarth.

Gary Kapolka

I smoked McCranie's Red Virginia in this pipe about four times daily for a total of 729 times. I did not give the pipe a rest—I just smoked it as I would any other pipe.

Jeff Racey

If there is a category for the ugliest meerschaum, I think I'm in the running. I did take time to read a couple of articles about coloring meerschaums but decided early on that the best method was to simply smoke it often. I tried to smoke at least a bowl a day, sometimes two, and was reasonably successful at that. In spite of approximately 150 bowls, the color didn't deepen much after the first 30 or so. The shank colored rather quickly to a dark chestnut, but the bowl simply changed from white to tan. I've come to the conclusion that lattice-type meerschaums color far slower than smooth pipes. I tried several tobaccos but finally settled on a sweet English blend (Montana Mixture) from Barclay Pipe & Tobacco in Columbus, Ohio. All told, it was a rather neat experiment and I'm glad I had an opportunity to participate.

Regis McCafferty

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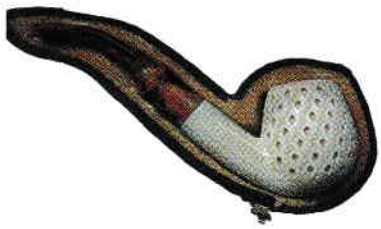

This pipe was smoked 42 times, starting with G.L. Pease Odyssey for the first seven bowls, then almost 35 different tobaccos. I started using the Butera coloring bowl after the 16th bowl.

Mike Sternick

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While the coloring is fairly even, its magnitude is less than exceptional. I smoked it only once or twice a day, with a one-month rest period, as suggested by the helpful hints in *P&T*. I also ran a pipe cleaner or three through its stem after each smoke because I didn't want the shank to turn color faster than the rest of the pipe. My primary tobacco was John Middleton's Walnut, though for the last month it was also subjected to Carter Hall. While these are not true aromatic blends (and hence, probably slower to color a meerschaum) I enjoy both of them; consequently, the contest remained a delightful one, in spite of mediocre results! If I could add one thing, it would be that this contest pipe is the only meerschaum I've owned that would smoke as long as a regular briar (40 to 60 minutes per bowl). For whatever reason, all my other meerschaums never last longer than a half-hour. This one is a treasure! God bless the good folks at C.A.O., and thank you for the best contest I ever lost.

Jeff Hunt

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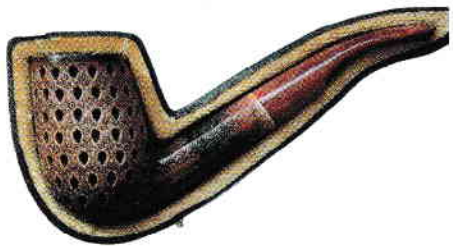
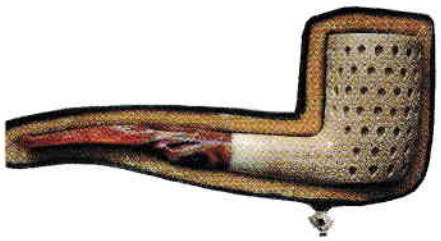


On April 19 I received a package from *P&T* containing an introductory letter and a C.A.O. meerschaum pipe I would describe as a lattice pattern half-bent billiard. I immediately filled the virgin bowl with a black Cavendish tobacco. After about one week of smoking this contest meerschaum exclusively, I noticed the bowl rim beginning to turn a pinkish-tan color. Within four weeks, the shank began taking on a yellowish-brown hue. Over the course of the next few months, averaging six pipefuls of black Cavendish per day, the pipe transformed from a chalky white to what I call a mottled chocolate brown with a deepening of color from the shank, flowing down to the heel of the bowl. The past six months have been most enjoyable. I look forward to reading the results of the contest.

O.A. Milan



It's been a fun challenge but I'm glad it's over! For the next one I'll just be a spectator, I think. I smoked this pipe 172 times with the "chimney" coloring bowl, and had to try it once without, just to see what it was like. I smoked Edward's Scottish Moor for the entire time, and maybe smoked a little faster than I normally would, also frequently blowing the smoke through the pipe. I'm pretty happy with the color evenness but not the color darkness. I'm afraid it's not nearly dark enough to be serious competition—but, as I said, it's been fun.

Lew Geiger

— — —

My approach was to use the recommended coloring bowl, which I had never previously heard of. I did not start smoking the pipe until I received my ordered coloring bowl on April 29. I smoked the pipe with the coloring bowl exclusively until Aug. 1. I used a Kentucky Burley tobacco with the hope of getting a nice "nut brown" color to the pipe. During these three months I smoked the pipe all but two days, and smoked from one to three bowls each day, with the suggested one-week rest period at the end of each three- to four-week period. At this point, which was nearly halfway through the contest, I was very unhappy with the coloring bowl. I found it to be uncomfortably top-heavy; it required me to hold the pipe virtually the entire time I smoked it. My main objection, though, was that the pipe was hardly coloring at all. Beginning August 1, I decided to just smoke the pipe the way I would enjoy it, so I set the coloring bowl aside and started smoking the pipe using my preferred Cavendish tobacco. The pipe started coloring pretty soon after that, but to date,

the coloring process has not had much time to progress up the bowl. During these last three months I smoked the pipe for a total of 63 more times.

Robert G. Vaughan

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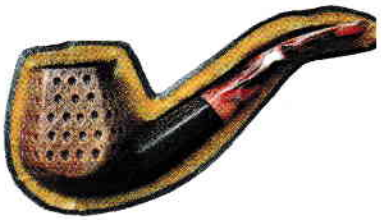

Basically, the pipe stayed in my car since I received it. I smoked it twice a day every weekday and let it rest on the weekends. I smoked McClelland Dark Star, Ashton Pebble Cut and black Cavendish off and on. My primary tobacco is Mac Baren's Vanilla Cream. Near the end of the contest, I smoked a gloppy store blend called Black Cordial (which was very moist and sticky) hoping to color my pipe more thoroughly. I did not do anything other than that to color the pipe. One other thing: I contacted C.A.O. to get a new nylon fitting for the pipe. They were wonderful! The company immediately sent me two new fittings free of charge. You have partnered with a quality company for this contest—their service is great! The contest was a terrific opportunity to try something new. Thanks.

David Everly

---

I am a truck driver, so one of the unique things about this pipe is it has been smoked in every state east of I-65, and a few states west as well. I smoked the pipe only in the truck while driving. For the first two months I smoked two bowls a day, morning and evening. The pipe then became pretty saturated, so I switched to smoking one bowl a day (in the morning). During October, for the final push for color, I went back to two bowls a day. I let the pipe rest on weekends. I smoke an aromatic blend named Hill Country Cherry from the Hill Country Humidor in San Marcos, Texas. It's a great blend; very cool smoke with no bite. While smoking, I made sure my hands were clean, but did not wear a glove, so I could judge the pipe's temperature. It never became more than mildly hot.

Mikael McKinney

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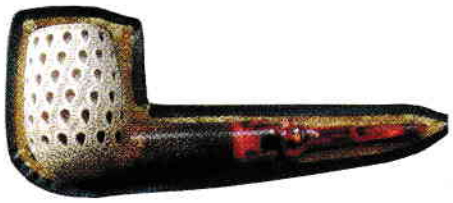

I used the "old" method to smoke this pipe. I filled the pipe to the top of the bowl with tobacco each time it was smoked. For the last month only half of each bowl was smoked. The pipe was smoked at least three times a day for approximately seven days and then rested and allowed to dry for two or three days. I think the coloring is progressing nicely, but it will take longer to acquire good color. The tobacco used was an English blend of dark Cavendish, Turkish Oriental and Latakia. This blend is mixed locally and is called Pirate's Passion.

Bruce Barker

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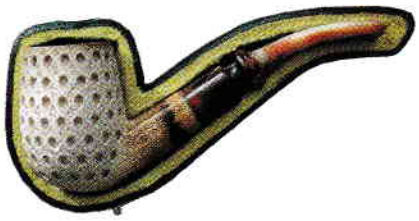

It was interesting to smoke (almost exclusively) one pipe for six months. I smoked a variety of tobaccos but mostly Virginia flakes, though my first bowl most days was Early Morning Pipe. (Unfortunately, my old favorite, Balkan Sobranie No. 10, made with cigar leaf, is gone. A great smoke with, I was repeatedly told, a terrible aroma. Actually they said, "That stuff is really terrible. It stinks." And that was from cigar smokers.) But I also did some tins of lighter aromatics, such as Dunhill's Three Year Matured Virginia, Edward's Blackwatch, Germain's Medium Flake and Barbary Coast from G.L. Pease. The first bowl of tobacco smoked from my meerschaum was on April 20, 2002. Though not recommended, I got a coloring bowl halfway through the contest. The first bowl through the Butera device was the 263rd, on Aug. 14. The last bowl was the 500th, on Nov. 11. [An included table indicates that the pipe increased in weight by 4.8 grams during the contest.]

Bruce Leonard

---

In anticipation of the pipe's arrival, I had purchased a half-pound of Tinder Box Chocolate Treat. My thoughts were that the heavier the juices from the tobacco casings, the darker the pipe would get. I derived this theory from two SMS meerschaums previously purchased and smoked. After that half-pound, it was on to a pound and a half of Sweet Vanilla Dew from Dan Pipe. Next came an assortment of different tobaccos of the aromatic persuasion, including Captain Black Royal; Amphora Blue, Red, Green and Brown; Klondike from Tinder Box; Peterson Sunset Breeze; McClelland's Captain Cool and a few bowls of other tobaccos I can't remember, for a grand total of about 3 pounds of tobacco smoked through this pipe. I chose not to use any smoking aids, such as coloring bowls. I simply smoked the hell out of this pipe. I have to admit I am disappointed with the lack of evenness of the color. As stated, I have two other pipes that have and are coloring very uniformly.

Bill Schriver

---

I smoked 366 bowls full of tobacco: 165 bowls of natural Cavendish, 126 bowls of black Cavendish, 35 bowls of Inspiration (from Tobacco Plus of Highland, Arkansas), 30 bowls of Virginia Brown, and 10 bowls of Detective (also from Tobacco Plus). Shortly after receiving the pipe, I was working in my shop and inadvertently got a large grease stain on the stem. I tried every method I'd ever heard to clean and remove the stain, to no avail. Finally, I

rubbed beeswax on the pipe while it was hot. The next several smokes, I rubbed the pipe with a clean soft cotton rag immediately after smoking. The stain went away. I have five other meerschaums. My wife calls this pipe my "mottled meerschaum." I call it my "pinto bean," because I have never seen a pipe color so unevenly. I think the mottled appearance adds beauty to the pipe.

D. Stewart Freigy

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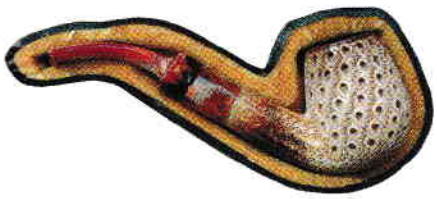

This pipe was smoked nearly every day for the first couple of months, then at least three days a week for another couple of months. I finished by smoking it either every day or infrequently. I suppose the pipe got rest periods of, at times, two weeks. The pipe started out with English mixtures and Balkans, then had nearly every non-aromatic type of tobacco put through it. I refrained from waxing or otherwise treating my pipe until one day in August, I heated the outside of the pipe bowl and re-waxed it, thereby deepening the color.

Henry Smallwood

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I smoked this pipe five to seven times a week for three and a half months, no more than one bowl in a day. I did not touch the bowl for the first month. It was smoked slowly, never growing too hot to the touch, in 60- to 80-degree weather. The pipe was cleaned after every smoke with bristle and fluffy cleaners and the cake was reamed every couple of weeks. The tobaccos smoked in it were English and Scottish blends (Dunhill, Comoy's, Davidoff).

Daniel Kenneth Fahy

I smoked the pipe twice a day for the first 35 days, letting it rest for the next 30 days. For the remainder of the contest time, the pipe was my constant companion and I smoked it at least daily. Smoking time remained consistent at about 50 minutes per bowl. I tried a variety of tobaccos, such as Sable (from Jon's Pipe Shop in Champagne, Illinois), McClelland's Bombay Extra, Erik Nording's Hunter's Blends Retriever and Fox Hound. I did not use a coloring bowl, although it may have been helpful, as the stem colored much faster than the bowl itself.

James O. Turley

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My approach was simply to smoke it like crazy with my Virginia-based tobaccos. I used no fancy tricks or secrets—just plain smoking. As you can see, the coloring is mainly at the stem, as time did not permit full coloring.

Lawrence L. Seager

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This pipe was smoked on average three to four times a week, starting out with Burley-based blends and toward the end, as it became colder, I moved outside with Latakia-based blends. At the beginning I wouldn't touch the pipe at all, in hopes of preventing miscoloring, but near the end I just handled it like my other pipes. I did not use a coloring bowl.

Nathaniel Warner

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Because I wanted to see how well I could color the pipe just by smoking it, I did not choose to use a coloring bowl. I smoked my pipe every day since receiving it—some days just one bowlful and other days I would pound the pipe hard and smoke around 10 bowls, one after the other. I smoked only Dunhill #965. In my other meerschaum pipe, this tobacco would make a rose color; unfortunately, this pipe ended up turning a tan color.

John Athanassion

---

I smoked my pipe daily three or four times and let it rest one day a month. The only tobacco I smoked is a blend of white Burley, golden Virginia, black Cavendish and Latakia, called H.G.L., which I purchased from my favorite pipe shop. I did not use a coloring bowl. I prefer to maintain a cake in all of my pipes. I cleaned my meerschaum daily as I do my others for a clean, dry smoke. I did not touch the bowl for the first four days, then I handled it normally.

Chuck Peccolo

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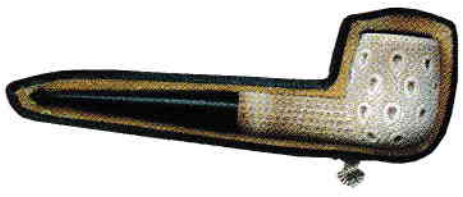


This pipe was smoked with a coloring bowl for a total of 63.25 bowls. Total

smoking time was 87 hours and 20 minutes. The tobacco used is called Todevin.

Robert Leustek

I smoked this pipe three to four times a day from April 20 to Oct. 22, 2002. The tobacco I smoked was Ark-Piper B.C.L. from Tobacco Plus.

Les Hickey

Smoked five to seven times daily, except Sundays, using Ark-Piper tobacco and B.C.L. (a blend of black Cavendish, natural Cavendish, Latakia and Anise) from Tobacco Plus in Hardy, Arkansas. Thank you for the opportunity to enjoy another avenue of pipe smoking!

Dick Alexander

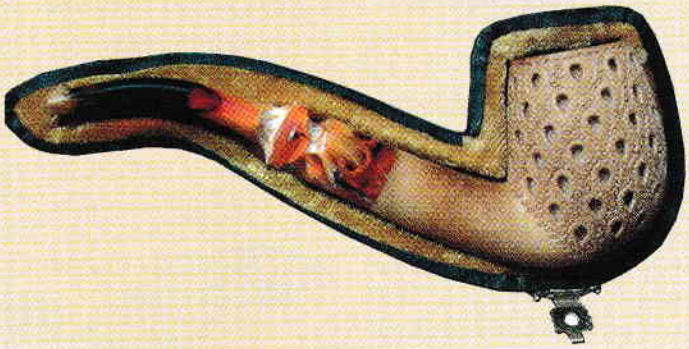
This pipe was smoked three times a day, six days a week, resting on Sundays. I started with a special mixture called Inspiration mixed by Tobacco Plus of Hardy, Arkansas. During the last five weeks, I also smoked McClelland's Special Black.

Tommy Meridith

**Winning Entry**

What a great, fun contest. I utilized the Butera coloring bowl with Burley and aromatic tobaccos, and allowed the pipe to rest for a month after the first month of smoking and for two weeks in early October. I smoked the pipe daily for most of the non-rest periods. I did not take the pipe apart for cleaning, using only a pipe cleaner through the stem.

John M. Goldberg



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# P&T remembers

**W.Ø. Larsen**

On Oct. 27, longtime industry fixture Ole W.Ø. Larsen passed away—just two days shy of his 82nd birthday.

Ole W.Ø. Larsen was the fourth generation of the W.Ø. Larsen tobacco dynasty, founded in 1864. Born and raised in Copenhagen and with a natural interest in the family firm, Ole W.Ø. Larsen received a thorough education within tobacco and trade. Not only did he learn the difficult art of making cigars, he also studied the culture of tobacco in England and Holland.

After World War II, Larsen went to the United States to better learn about the American tobacco market. To do so, he worked in the tobacco fields and in cigar factories. After nearly two adventurous years abroad, Larsen returned to Denmark to manage the family's tobacco firm.

During the following years, Larsen initiated projects that today have made the W.Ø. Larsen name famous for its high quality and craftsmanship. In the late 1950s, Larsen began designing the famous Larsen Handmade pipes. With new shapes and finishes, these pipes were well-received in the pipe world and are still in high demand as cherished and popular classics.

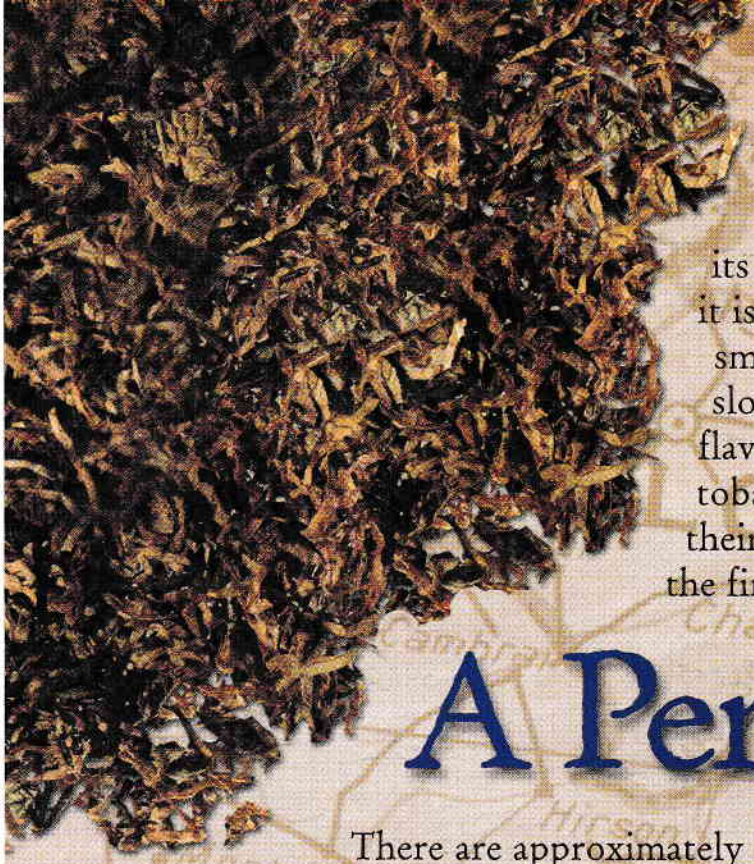
Larsen was also a passionate collector of antiquities. This passion led to the foundation of the Tobacco Museum in 1977. The museum contains a rare and exclusive collection of pipe and tobacco artifacts dating back centuries. Larsen himself, his ancestors, and private contributors have collected many of the exhibited items. Today the museum's efforts are driven together with Scandinavian Tobacco Co., and it still attracts tourists and collectors from around the world.

His interest in art and history led Larsen to design beautiful tin boxes for the W.Ø. Larsen tobacco. He also found time to write a book in Danish called *Antique Pipes* (now out of print), which focused mainly on 18th- and 19th-century meerschaum pipes.

When the prestigious Academie Internationale de la Pipe was founded, Larsen became a founding member. Larsen was also a highly appreciated member of the Rotary Club.

Throughout his life, Larsen was an inspiration to everyone who met him. A gentle man with a gentle smile and a vast knowledge of the industry, he always had time to share a story or to educate the novice.

His industry and his family were his passions. Combining the two, Larsen loved visiting with his American retailers at the annual RTDA Show with his wife and son. His presence will be missed. ***P&T***



Pipe tobacco is a pleasure enjoyed by many world-wide. There's more to smoking a pipe than simply enjoying tobacco, it is a culture of its own – an expression of one's lifestyle. Moreover it is a pleasant alternative to cigarettes which are smoked quickly. In contrast, pipes are smoked slowly, enabling you to savor and enjoy the full flavor of the tobacco. To ensure only the finest tobacco is used in Pöschl Tabak's products, they send their tobacco experts all over the world, choosing only the finest tobacco for use in their products.

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**"There's more to smoking a pipe than simply enjoying tobacco, it is a culture of its own – an expression of one's lifestyle."**

# Of History And Flavor.

There are various types and cuttings for pipe tobaccos; flake, pressed tobacco, ready rubbed, wild cut, cube cut and regular cut. Normal cut tobacco is cut in short and wide pieces that are stored loosely in pouches or in tins. Wild Cut (Thomas Radford Sunday's Fantasy), is cut based on the varying conditions of the tobacco leaves granting a mild fire in the pipe. Some tobaccos are pressed to cakes or blocks and afterwards cut into different variations (Cavendish and Ready Rubbed). Another popular type of cutting is granules cubes (Exclusiv Royal) where loosely or little bit pressed cut tobacco is cut through double cutting into small square or rectangular pieces.

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**Teamwork?**

*In the article on Becker & Musico (Summer 2002), you note that all Becker pipes, until 1991, were made jointly by Paolo and Fritz Becker, and that there is no such thing as a "Fritz pipe." I was interested by that because I often see pipes on eBay and at pipe shows that are sold with the claim that Fritz Becker made the pipe rather than Paolo. Still, there is a new Becker Web site* (www.beckerpipes.com) *that shows pipes from many different years and notes which pipemaker made the pipes. This seems to indicate that Paolo and Fritz did make their own pipes. Can you explain this contradiction?*

*Raoul Dickerson*
*Miami, Florida*

Paolo Becker reports that both he and his father designed every pipe together. Where the Web site credits one or the other for the making of a particular pipe, it means only that either Paolo or Fritz was primarily involved in choosing the briar and doing the majority of the work on it. Until Fritz Becker's death, though, every pipe was indeed a collaboration of the two.

**Original Stems**

*Vintage and used collectible pipes are readily available at pipe shows, but I'm not sure about how to figure fair prices on them. I'm especially concerned when a pipe has a broken stem or a replacement stem. How does one estimate the value in these cases?*

*Gary Henckle*
*Memphis, Tennessee*

The rule of thumb for estimating the value of a used pipe is to divide the full retail price by two: if a pipe costs $200 new, its used value is typically $100. There are variations, of course. Some brands maintain a higher resale value, such as very high-grade pipes. Jess Chonowitsch or S. Bang pipes, for example, typically sell for about two-thirds their original price after they have been smoked. Of course, most collectors who invest in such expensive pipes take very good care of them, so you're relatively certain that problems are rare. Pipes that are more common, easy to find and relatively inexpensive may be available at less than half price once used, if you shop around.

As for antique or vintage pipes, the rarity increases value. Broken or missing stems can be a problem and it is not uncommon, especially with antique meerschaums with amber mouthpieces, to be faced with broken stem issues. Antique tobacciana collector/expert Frank Burla has kindly provided some comments on the subject:

> In regard to the value of an original stem, be it amber, wood or other material: More value is given to a piece with its original stem because it completes the item. Keep in mind that many of the antique meerschaum pipes are considered art objects, and not having the original stem gives the

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potential buyer the feeling of buying a damaged, incomplete piece. I have seen cases where people interested in the piece, once they discovered that the stem was a replacement, refused to buy the piece. This usually depends on how serious a collector the person is. As for amber, depending on the size and the shape of the amber stem, in most cases it is almost impossible to find a perfect replacement stem because the amber used had a definite shank diameter and a proper bend. The use of a replacement amber stem, especially when the pipe includes a fitted case, is obvious because the contour of the stem is not perfectly matched or is shorter than the space allotted the original stem in the case. Also keep in mind that most antique pipes with amber stems used specific types of amber not easily accessible today. For example, in Europe, finer meerschaum pipes used a Baltic or rock amber, not the transparent amber you see on the meerschaum pipes carved in the U.S. in the early to mid-1900s. Yet, transparent amber was used on some of the earlier briars of the late 1880s made in Europe.

During some periods of history, amber was almost impossible to get and extremely expensive. Many meerschaum pipe makers used a type of early plastic, red in color, which complemented the meerschaum. This red plastic material was easily replaced if damaged. Some used horn, ebony, ivory, cherrywood, etc., for stems. The amber stems, in most cases, were fitted with bone tenons. Today we see metal, plastic, Teflon, wood and rubber tenons on meerschaum pipes. Be careful of stems called real amber, amberoid, amber-like, red amber, etc., because they may not be true amber at all.

As for the use of cherrywood stems on other antique pipes, be careful. It is almost impossible to tell a replacement cherrywood stem from an older piece. Where the difference comes in is at the ferrule and mouthpiece. Today these are made of plastic—not horn—and you can usually see the seams.

Realistically, not every antique pipe can be found with its original stem, therefore you do the best you can to closely match the replacement stem with the pipe.

The briar pipe collector, especially those of the expensive logo-marked pipes, such as Dunhills, is leery to invest in pipes with replacement stems. A replacement stem on a quality briar can reduce the pipe's value by as much as 40 percent. If a replacement stem is necessary to complete a piece for smoking, then it is the seller's obligation to tell a potential buyer that the stem is a replacement, no matter how closely it may resemble the original stem. There is a code of ethics that must be followed.

Many people today who buy quality briar pipes have a second smoking stem made for their pipes and keep the original stems for pipe display or for when they trade or sell the pipes. *P&T*

# TRIAL BY FIRE

by William Serad

*Well, friends, I have a number of notable blends for general attention, and another number of blends called to the attention of a smaller audience with particular tastes, and some for peculiar tastes that are not mine. I never fully dismiss any blend because there is a lid for every pot, and there are some darned strange pots in the world. This issue we have blends from My Own Blend (no, not mine but My; pay attention to caps and stay with me or this could be like "Who's on first…"), Solani and Brebbia, G.L. Pease, and McClelland's latest in the Frog series. As well, there are a number worth noting in Blends in Brief.*

*I must remove some egg from my reviewing face. I had mentioned in the last issue that "Pal O' Mine" from McClelland smelled like chocolate-covered cherries. A diligent reader, P. Roark, surveyed 45 pipe smokers in his area and 32 (71 percent) said it was peach. The remainder said "some kind of fruit" as did the pristine nose of my daughter, an instrument I often resort to when my instrument is insufficiently discriminating. While this sample has a confidence interval of +/-15 percent at the 95 percent level, it was enough for me. After inquiry with Mike McNeil (the genius of McClelland), I learned that the flavor is indeed peach. Moreover, the chocolate note I take away at times is from Perique aged in cakes with stoved Virginias, but chocolate is what I smell. So thanks to Mr. Roark and Mr. McNeil, the reading public is given truth, the ship is on the correct course again and we sail on. I think I will consult an otolaryngologist, however.*

*First, let's have a go at the My Own Blend blends. As they note on their Web site* (www.myownblend.dk) *"Historien om My Own Blend tobakkerne går tilbage til 1939, hvor Paul Olsen besøgte London og så, hvordan Dunhill betjente sine kunder med individuelle blandinger." Well, that explains it all. For the Danish-challenged, these blends are actually produced by the familiar Orlik Tobacco Co. There are a series of stores in Denmark by the name of "My Own Blend" where you can get custom blending from experienced tobacconists—hence the name, like Dunhill's My Mixture series, the most famous being 965—or the house blends. These are hand-blended, and come in those wonderful tins you open with a coin. The lids are stamped with a crown because in 1964, Paul Olsen A/S was appointed tobacconist to the Danish Royal Court, and he well should be.*

### My Own Blend B93

A partially rubbed-out pale flake or cut plug, this consists of five Virginias aged three years. From the tin aroma, which is delightfully tobacco-y, this has been cased for sweetness. It is a typical Danish-style Virginia flake, with many competitors, but perhaps of higher quality than average in this incarnation. Generally unremarkable, this is not bad, but as with its sort, needs to be puffed slowly to get the most from it. A bowl can last quite a while, producing quite a long, pleasant smoke with no surprises.

### My Own Blend Bourbon

As the name implies, this is flavored with Kentucky bourbon, giving it a wonderful aroma. It consists of black Cavendish, two Virginias and white Burley. Generally Germanic in character, this has both a fine taste and bouquet. It is cool and the bourbon gives it a roundness that is integrating to the tobacco flavors. The colors are generally brown with a dash of black, and the cut is medium to short. A fine aromatic, this is recommended.

### My Own Blend 7000

This is a 100-year-old recipe, which always gets my attention. It consists of Latakia, Orientals, black Cavendish and Turkish Samsun, making it one of the very few blends on the market with an identified varietal. And let me tell you, in this case it makes all the difference for this blend, moving it from excellent to uniquely delicious. Samsun is considered by many Turks to be one of the finest tobaccos in the world and, like Perique, can be grown in only one place. The Latakia is a big presence and particularly smoky in MOB 7000, but the Samsun produces a unique note, elegantly addictive. You'll want another bowl after the first. Closer to a Balkan than a Scottish blend because the black Cavendish adds only subtle sweetness, this is exceptional and highly recommended.

### My Own Blend 3005

My Own Blend 3005 consists of three different matured Virginias and Cyprian Latakia in a loose cut. As with 7000, this has the same excellent, smoky Latakia that characterizes the blend. The variations in Virginias create some mild background complexity in the taste, but the main effect is visual, with mostly browns and

# Pipes AND TOBACCOS

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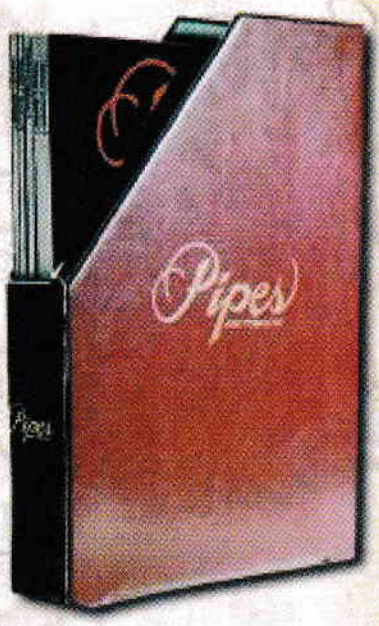


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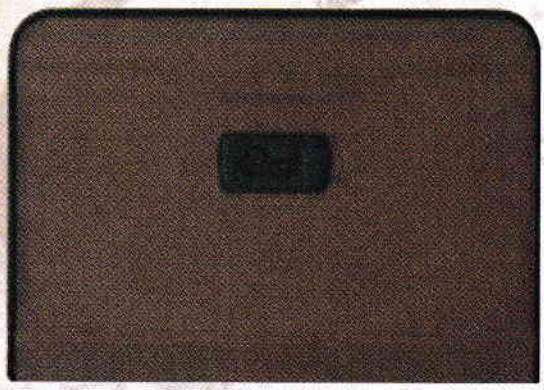

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reds, both pale and mahogany, making up the majority, then some black. It is a somewhat unusual cut, in that the strands are rather short to medium, few long, and fine, but not a shag. It makes it easy to pack and gives it good burning characteristics. This could just as easily have been two Virginias or six Virginias, because the Latakia dominates, yet without hegemony. Perhaps I note it more because it tastes so good. Easily a candidate for all-day-smokehood, this is very companionable.

### My Own Blend 111

Billed as a Navy Flake (obviously in the Danish sense—rum not involved), made from flue-cured Virginia, Kentucky Burley and Perique. The ingredients and name made me try this one first in the series, and I had high hopes. I was initially disappointed, but it grew on me. It is so dense, it looked like someone had helped themselves to the tin before me, and the color is quite dark for a flake that was not made on a Scottish press, deep brown with striations of gold. The tin aroma is inviting, sweet and rich. For a flake of this density, it was fairly easy to light, requiring only a few fire and tamp cycles. At first, it seems undistinguished, but the Burley asserts itself as one travels down the bowl, with some of the initial sweetness subsiding. It has a characteristic muscular Burley finish, nearly bitter. The Perique is slight, below subdued. This was an exceptionally cool and long smoke, a bowl lasting an easy hour for best taste. While sweet, it has deeper flavors from the Burley, melded by the flake press. I liked it over time, and it is recommended. Make sure you give it a chance.

### My Own Blend 333

A flake of bright Virginia, black Cavendish and Perique aged together, this is indeed a Navy Flake in my book because it is flavored with Jamaican rum. It is light brown in color with pale golden highlights, and the tin aroma whispered "heavy casing" to me, like Mac Baren Virginia No. 1. The brighter Virginia flavor dominates, making this light in character and a bit sooty, while the rum imparts a mellow room aroma. It is not a very varied bowlful, maintaining a constant flavor throughout. My Own Blend 333 needs glacially slow puffing for the best flavor. The casing is quite evident in the sweetness, with the rum and Perique purely background. I can't say this struck me as notable in any particular way, but not bad in any particular way either.

• • •

*Brebbia is well-known in the pipe world, founded in 1947 by Enea Buzzi in Italy. Today, Enea's son Luciano directs the company, and these blends are natural line extensions to the pipes they are known for. They are mostly aromatics, and as a group, they vary less in big flavors than in flavorings, all being subtle and sweet. There is one true English blend, and one English misnomer. All are worthy of consideration for respective aficionados of aromatics and English blends, but will be essentially unappealing for crossover or hybrid fans; they are absolutely of their types. Unfortunately, nothing is here for the flake folk. They come in the traditional twist-top tins, but with a plastic bag inside, sort of a belt-and-suspenders approach to freshness.*

### Adagio Mixture #50

Many and varied unidentified types of leaf in varied cuts, this is an aromatic flavored with pistachio, the only one I know of. It has a very nice aroma. It is light and cool, and it is remarkably flavorless.

### Quartetto Mixture #20

A blend of broad-cut bright and sweet Virginias with dark and mild black Cavendish, this aromatic is flavored with fruit extracts, herbs and

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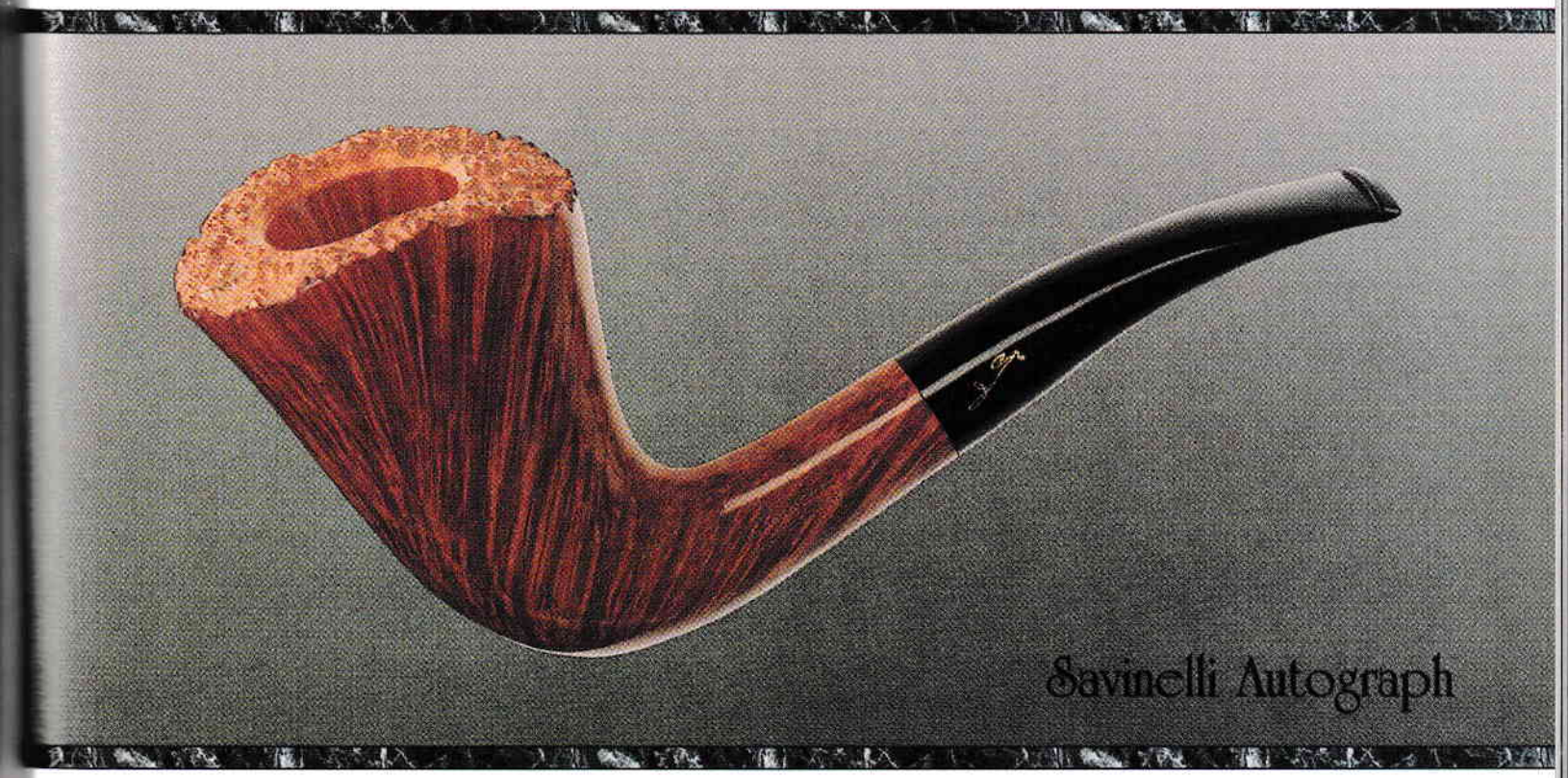


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spices. Dark brown in color, with a superabundance of black, it is misidentified as a mild English, unless "Brebbia" means that the English ambassador likes it. It has a marvelous bouquet, and is one of the few blends where the aroma matches the taste. Almost invariably in my experience, flavorings do not come through the pipe as they exist in the tin. The flavor, however, provides an impression less of tobacco than of top dressings—quite good top dressing, admittedly, but I prefer more tobacco.

### *Sinfonia Mixture #30*

Sinfonia is an aromatic mixture of sun-cured Virginias with a little black Cavendish, all flavored with yellow plums and oranges. I have never seen yellow plums nor encountered orange-flavored blends that work. This comes closest to working of any I've tried. What's the opposite of saying something grew on you? You tired of its charms? This was like the line from *Winnie the Pooh*: "The more he knocked, the more I wasn't there." The more I puffed, the more distant the flavor seemed. A certain unpleasant note emerges down the bowl, of what I am not sure. I just couldn't get this to work, remarkable given how well it starts off. Perhaps you can.

### *Romanza Mixture #10*

This is that rarest of aromatics, an all-Virginia blend. It is a beautiful rough-cut mixture of browns, golds and reds reminiscent of fall (I did see some black). The aromatic top-dressing is quite fruity and bright in tone. The tobacco flavor is very tasty, mid to high with no bass, as is the fruit essence. A very fine aromatic that is flavorful, light and engaging, I would recommend this to aromatic fans.

### *Allegro Mixture #40*

Allegro means happy in Italian, as well as being a musical marking for a quick tempo. This is a happy little blend that was very pleasing. Toasted Virginia is blended with Burley leaf and topped with mango and vanilla. This had a rounder and fuller midrange of flavors because of the Burley, and was delightful. It is warm and engaging, and the aroma will please the crowd, if the crowd lets you put match to pipe (crowds turn on you now, so carry tear gas or a heavy Balkan to effect rapid escape). Recommended for aromatophiles.

### *Preludio Mixture #60*

I had my daughter of the pristine nose smell this in the tin, and she said "Boy, does that stink!" I knew then that I would love it. American Virginias, Macedonian leaf and Syrian Latakia are balanced by the master blender's hand. This has a marvelous, enveloping flavor, rich without flamboyance. The tin aroma is slightly misleading, because this is really not that heavy, and would be suitable for more than the occasional sensory mountain climb. Absolutely delightful, and highly recommended.

• • •

*I have reviewed the Solani blends in a previous issue of* P&T. *These were developed by R. L. Will to give pipe puffers very mature tobaccos with as little additives as possible. This new member of the line has quite a few, actually, to great success.*

### *Solani X – Sweet Mystery Blend 113*

There is no violation of the truth-in-labeling laws here. This is sweet, very sweet. It

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is also a mystery as to how Herr Will managed to make a blend in which both the tobacco and the flavorings are superlative. This is a blend of red, sweet Virginias and bright, broad-cut brights. To those are added Virginia flake and a unique double-fermented black Cavendish with noteworthy density. The magnificent tin and room aroma is the result of black currants treated with Bacardi and CocoCream as a topping. The cuts are rough (wild to the Germans, to whom Americans seem wild rather than rough, I would guess), cross-cut and flake, which gives this an easy slow burn. This is probably too aromatic for crossover types or flake fanciers slumming. For those who love aromatics or the broadminded with no taste affiliations, from the match until exhaustion of the bowl this is simply wonderful, and highly recommended.

• • •

*There is nothing much to say about McClelland I haven't already said—it's a pillar to the pipe smoker. I can say that the newest Frog 'baccy is a beaut.*

### *Frog Morton on the Bayou*

I couldn't imagine this being a Balkan at first. The tin aroma places it firmly in the *Rana* genus (frog, for those with rusty Latin or biology). There is an almost Cavendish treatment or casing of a fair amount of Latakia. But there is also a chocolate note from the Perique that emerges after the tin has been opened for a while. Brown and mahogany colors with the predominantly black leaf hints at what a match will bring. Smoking it, cool and astoundingly rich, it is definitely a Balkan, with the characteristic core of Orientals sinuously running through every puff. Atypically, it is much smoother, without the acrid edge, but with the full tang of the Orientals a Balkan would have. I think this is the best Frog of the several, and I would highly recommend it.

• • •

*In another triumph in a series of triumphs, G.L. Pease provides a remarkable Virginia blend.*

### *Cumberland*

Cumberland is a full Virginia blend with a twist. It is fully composed of American leaf, with a red and matured Virginia base, potentially hot but not at all so here. Layer in some fine Perique, and you could stop there with a traditional mixture, and a fine one. But the twist is the inclusion of 20-year-old Kentucky Burley, giving this texture and presence that couldn't be reproduced with Virginias alone. I might say this is like a mailed fist in a velvet glove, but that would be inaccurate because the blending shows consummate skill. There is no mail here, just a velvet glove, but the hand in it is a strong one, with stalwart muscles, sinew and bone. It is always refined and elegant, but the true strength stands in the background, an attentive guardian to smoking pleasure. Perique has its graceful tendrils intertwined for an exceptional engagement with pure tobacco pleasure. Highly recommended.

### *Blends in Brief*

*From G.L. Pease, Robusto, a Virginia base with fine cigar leaf, enhanced with Latakia and Turkish leaf, wonderful.... From McClelland, Christmas Cheer 2002, a beautiful and classic McClelland flake made from the 1996 South Carolina border belt crop; well suited to cellaring (if you don't smoke it all up now), stash this one.... From Cornell & Diehl, Briar Fox, a uniquely different Virginia crumble cake, the personal blend of Peter Heeschen, the Danish master pipemaker, and three for the YAHOO! Pipe Smokers' Club—Back Porch, a fine mixture of Virginias wafted with Perique and Burley, Black Knight, Cyprian and Syrian Latakia in abundance supported by Virginias, Perique and Burley, and Rocking Chair, for the Burley fancier, with Latakia, Perique and some stoved red Virginia.... So many blends, so little time (and space), but more on these next issue, I hope...*

# The Chicagoland International Pipe and Tobacciana Show

## May 17 and 18, 2003

Mark your calendar and start making arrangements to attend the largest, most comprehensive and well-attended pipe and tobacco show in the United States. The show will have 263 exhibit tables of briar pipes, cigars, smoking accessories, antique tobacciana, tobacco literature and tobaccos from around the world. You will have the opportunity to meet and converse with pipemakers from Denmark, Italy, the U.S., Canada, England, Austria, Germany, Spain, Japan, Ireland, Poland, France and many other countries. Some of the finest collections in the world will be on display and their proprietors available for questions. Manufacturers, distributors and retail shops from Europe and North America will be represented, with their wares available to purchase or sample.

Though the show offers the opportunity to purchase a staggering diversity of quality items, its educational aspects are perhaps even more appealing. Besides the ready accessibility of world-renowned experts from every segment of the hobby, seminars will be conducted on Friday and Saturday evenings (May 16 and 17) for in-depth discussion of selected topics.

Golfers may wish to take advantage of the fine May weather to play in the CPCC Golf Tournament on Friday. Friday also hosts a pre-show with 80 exhibitors for a full-day warm-up before the official show begins on Saturday. Chicago and St. Charles offer endless opportunities for fine dining, shopping and sightseeing for those who bring their families along, so you might consider turning this show into a family vacation.

For additional information, contact Mike Reschke, 630.889.0453, *mwreschke@ameritech.net*; Frank Burla, 630.271.1317, *fpburla@aol.com*; or visit the show's Web site at *www.chicagopipeshow.com*.

| | |
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| SHOW DATES: | May 17-18, 2003 (preshow and golf tournament May 16) |
| TIMES: | Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| ADMISSION: | $7 one-day entry, $10 both days; preshow admission is free |
| LOCATION: | The Mega Center, Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 East Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174 (on Rt. 64, two miles West of Rt. 59); telephone 800.999.3319 |

Pipes AND TOBACCOS

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# National Pipe Smoking Contest

## to be held at

## Chicagoland International Pipe & Tobacciana Show

### 1 p.m., May 18, 2003

***Contest Location:***
**Pheasant Run Resort**
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**630.584.6300; 800.999.3319**

The contest will follow the International Committee of Pipe Clubs (ICPC) rules. Registration fee is $25 and may be sent to David Bull, (Acting) Secretary/Treasurer of the United Pipe Clubs of America, at 5858 Seven Nations Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466; telephone: 570.894.8016; e-mail: *pipes@unitedpipeclubs.org*; Web site: *www.unitedpipeclubs.org*.

**Pipes provided by:** Kaywoodie

**Tobacco blend:** #460, Competition Blend by Craig Tarler, Cornell & Diehl. You may purchase and smoke this tobacco prior to the contest. At the start of the contest, each contestant will be provided an officially measured packet containing three grams of tobacco.

**Tampers provided by:** Brigham Pipes of Canada.
Contestants with the longest smoking times will be considered for membership on the U.S. National Pipe Smoking Team to compete in international contests.

**For additional information,** contact Vernon Vig, 212.424.8007 (days) or 718.624.4903 (evenings and weekends).

**Regulations for the National Pipe Smoking Championships**
The purpose of the competition is to have individual participants or teams smoke pipes for the longest possible period of time without relighting them. Each participant or team will have to use the same amount of tobacco and a similar pipe and tamper.

**The Tobacco.**
*Article 1.* Only persons over the age of 18 and members of pipe smoking clubs affiliated with the national pipe club, or a member of ICPC, can take part in the competition.
*Article 2.* The organizing association has the right to limit the number of participants. However, the limit must be stated when the association is appointed to organize the competition.
*Article 3.* Participants will use only the tobacco selected by the organizers of the competition.
*Article 4.* The quantity of tobacco to be used will be three grams.
*Article 5.* The organizers will make the name of the selected tobacco known, together with the full program of the event, two months in advance at the latest.

**The Pipes.**
*Article 6.* The organizers will provide all participants with the pipes to be used at the beginning of the competition.
*Article 7.* The pipes will be made of briar, straight and classical in shape, with or without a removable filter and will be able to hold at least three grams of tobacco. They will be supplied by the pipe club organizing the competition.
*Article 8.* The organizers will announce the exact dimensions of the pipe to be used for the competition at least two months in advance following the provisions of Article 7 above. The organizers will also send a sample of the pipe to any club on request, against payment.
*Article 9.* Should the pipe have a filter, the participant may remove it.

**The Jury.**
*Article 10.* The jury has full binding power, and shall be composed of at least five persons:
- the president of the ICPC or his nominee
- a competition leader from the organizing pipe club whose duty is to appoint the timekeepers and announce the decisions and results and, if necessary, the intermediate times of the competition
- at least three jury members who are the presidents of national pipe clubs, or their nominees, nominated at the ICPC meeting on the preceding day of the competition

*Article 11.* Each group of 10 participants will be attended by at least one steward. The stewards will be appointed by the competition leader. They will control the competition, constantly supervise the participants and use the time-registration card placed in front of the participant to register the time achieved by each participant. The stewards will distribute pipes and other items stipulated in Article 16. They will seek instructions from the jury whenever the need arises. The jury is allowed to replace a steward during the competition if found inefficient.

**The Participants.**
*Article 12.* Each participant will receive a numbered card and may be given a name plate which is to be placed visibly. Each participant will then be seated at his respectively numbered table/seat.
*Article 13.* The participants will be allowed to use only a wooden tamper, 15 mm in diameter and 10 cm long, which will be supplied by the organizers.
*Article 14.* When the competition leader gives the signal, the steward will supply each

participant with one pipe each; after examining it, the pipe shall be placed in front of each participant. Any defective pipe may be replaced.

*Article 15.* When the competition leader gives the signal, each steward will place one tamper as described in Article 13 and one packet of tobacco in front of each participant. The participants are not allowed to touch the tobacco until the starting signal is given.

*Article 16.* The steward will make sure that only the following items are in front of each participant:

- the pipe
- the packet of tobacco
- the wooden tamper
- two matches in a box
- an A4-sized sheet of paper
- a time-registration card

Each participant will have to keep in mind that:

- the tamper may be used only when the pipe is in the mouth
- it is strictly forbidden to knock or shake the pipe in any way or by any means whatsoever
- the participant may remove the mouthpiece from the pipe for a few seconds during the competition in order to get any liquid out of it by knocking it on the sheet of paper or by blowing through it
- the sheet of paper can be used by each participant to wipe the tamper during the competition
- participants may remove ash from the pipe, but may not put back any tobacco which falls out during this operation
- participants are allowed to drink after the first 10 minutes of the competition—there will be water and glasses on each table at their disposal
- it is not allowed to keep the pipe lit by blowing in the bowl of the pipe through either the mouth or the nose—these are grounds for disqualification.

*Article 17.* When the competition leader gives the starting signal, the participants will open the packet of tobacco and will have five minutes to fill their pipes.

*Article 18.* The tobacco may be shredded only within this preparation period.

*Article 19.* The participants are not allowed to humidify the tobacco in any way.

*Article 20.* The participants are not allowed to put any extraneous matter such as chalk, filter or similar materials into the pipe.

*Article 21.* After the allowed five minutes, the timekeeper will remove the remaining tobacco.

*Article 22.* When the competition leader gives the signal, the participants must light their pipes, and time will be registered from then on.

*Article 23.* The participants shall have one minute to light their pipes by using one or both matches. Any match which breaks or does not light will be replaced by the timekeeper.

*Article 24.* The participant whose pipe extinguishes will immediately hand over his time-registration card to the steward.

*Article 25.* Should the steward suspect that a pipe is extinguished, he will be allowed to ask the participant to exhale smoke. If the pipe is totally extinguished and the participant has not signaled it in due time as stated in Article 24, the timekeeper will request the jury to disqualify the participant for lack of fair play.

*Article 26.* The disqualified participant must give up his time-registration card to the steward.

*Article 27.* Should any pipe burn, the jury will disqualify the participant.

**Advertisement.**

*Article 28.* No advertisement or trade name is permitted on the clothes of the members of the jury.

**The Entry Fee.**

*Article 29.* The organizers will lay down the entry fee for the competition; each participant will pay the fee, nonrefundable, until the registration deadline fixed by the organizers.

*Article 30.* Last-minute entry or replacement may be accepted or rejected by the organizers.

*Article 31.* In addition to the entry fee, each participant will pay for any incurred cost. These are equally nonrefundable.

**The Final Results.**

*Article 32.* The jury will draw up the final list of the winners. The jury's decision is final and binding.

**Individual Winner.**

*Article 33.* The winner shall be the participant who smokes the longest, provided that the pipe is not burned and the participant did not break any of the regulations. The jury will inspect the pipes smoked by the top 10 smokers to determine that the pipes have not been burnt.

*Article 34.* The winner will be entitled to be called World, European, Asian or American Champion, as the case may be.

*Article 35.* The organizers may, however, offer special awards and may draw up a special list of winners for the ladies.

**National Winner.**

*Article 36.* Each team my be composed of a maximum of five smokers, who will be arranged by the president of the national pipe club. The times recorded by the top three winners of each national team will be taken into account.

*Article 37.* Each team will be composed of members affiliated with the national pipe club that nominated them. Teams can be of mixed genders.

*Article 38.* The team-winning country will be authorized to use the title according to Article 34.

**World Cup.**

*Article 39.* Each team may be composed of a maximum of five smokers, whose names will be announced by a local club affiliated with a national club belonging to ICPC. The times recorded by the top three winners in each local team will be taken into account.

**Complaints.**

*Article 40.* Participants are allowed to appeal the decision of a timekeeper by lodging a complaint with the jury up to 15 minutes after the competition.

*Article 41.* No complaint will be accepted after the above-mentioned time.

*Article 42.* The organizers decline any liability for any damage or injury caused by things or persons, whether or not they are participants.

*Article 43.* By entering the competition, participants implicitly agree to abide by the general ICPC Regulations, *ipso facto*.

**Agreements Among National Clubs.**

*Article 44.* Clubs belonging to the ICPC accept these regulations as the only ones applicable for the awarding of the titles according to Articles 34 and 38.

*Article 45.* Articles 10, 11, 12, 16(6) and 36 can be settled otherwise by a national club for the organization of a national championship. The title of national winner, eventually of winner of the clubs, is entitled in accordance to Articles 33 to 39.

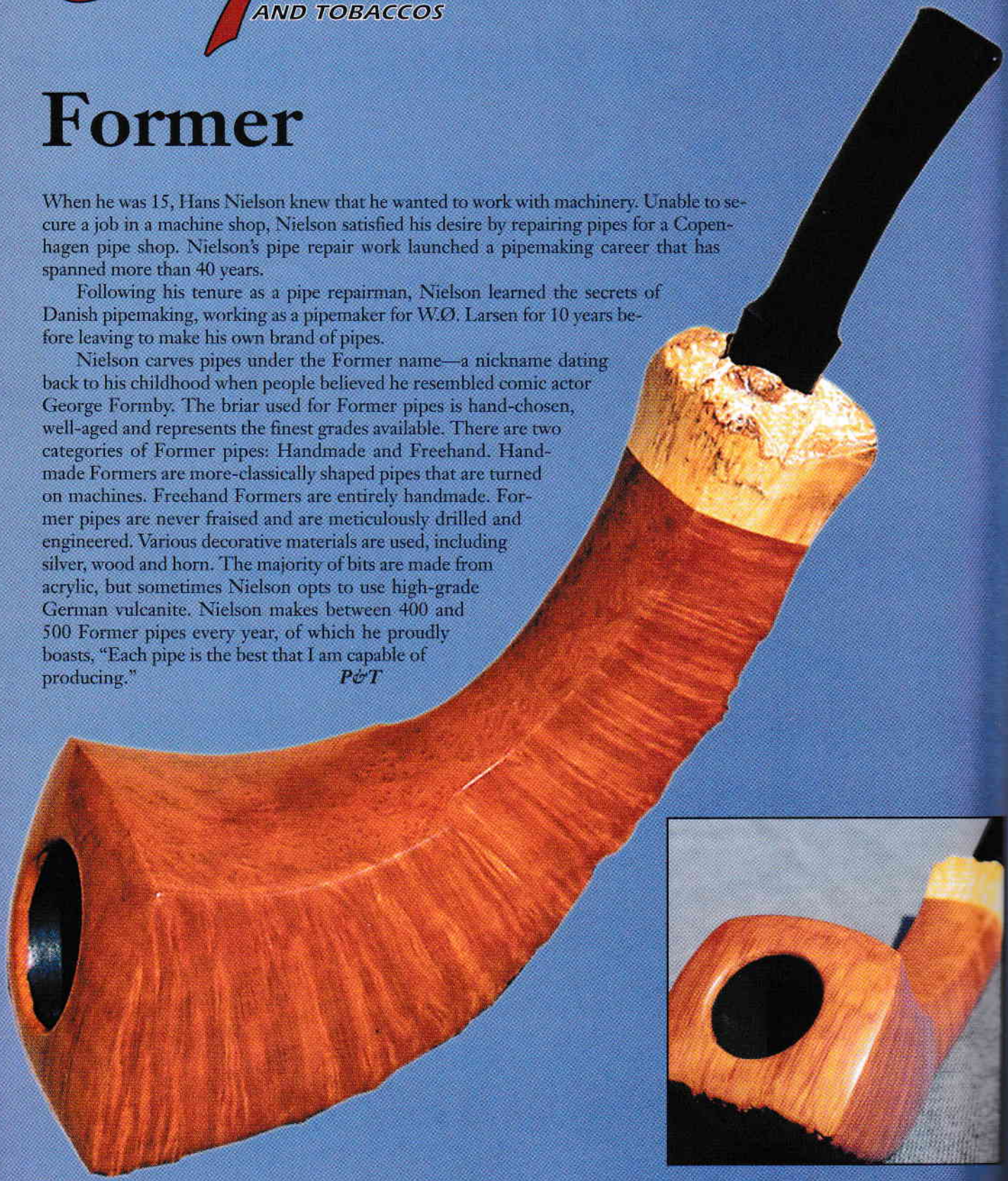
*Article 46.* The ICPC reserves the right to adjudicate any cases that may arise. ***P&T***

# Former

When he was 15, Hans Nielson knew that he wanted to work with machinery. Unable to secure a job in a machine shop, Nielson satisfied his desire by repairing pipes for a Copenhagen pipe shop. Nielson's pipe repair work launched a pipemaking career that has spanned more than 40 years.

Following his tenure as a pipe repairman, Nielson learned the secrets of Danish pipemaking, working as a pipemaker for W.Ø. Larsen for 10 years before leaving to make his own brand of pipes.

Nielson carves pipes under the Former name—a nickname dating back to his childhood when people believed he resembled comic actor George Formby. The briar used for Former pipes is hand-chosen, well-aged and represents the finest grades available. There are two categories of Former pipes: Handmade and Freehand. Handmade Formers are more-classically shaped pipes that are turned on machines. Freehand Formers are entirely handmade. Former pipes are never fraised and are meticulously drilled and engineered. Various decorative materials are used, including silver, wood and horn. The majority of bits are made from acrylic, but sometimes Nielson opts to use high-grade German vulcanite. Nielson makes between 400 and 500 Former pipes every year, of which he proudly boasts, "Each pipe is the best that I am capable of producing." *P&T*



**Chicagoland International Pipe and Tobacciana Show**
The Chicagoland International Pipe and Tobacciana Show will be held on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, 2003, at the Mega Center at the Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 East Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174. For room reservations, call 630.584.6300 and mention the show for special room rates. For more information, contact Mike Reschke at 630.889.0453, *mwreschke@ameritech.net*; or Frank Burla at 630.271.1317, *fpburla@aol.com*; or visit the show's Web site, *www.chicagopipeshow.com*.

**Golden Horseshoe Pipe Show**
The Burlington Pipe Club presents the first Golden Horseshoe Pipe Show to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Black Bull Pub, 1124 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario, Canada. For details and location, contact Phil Raney at 519.754.1148 or *praney@sympatico.ca*.

**Memphis Pipe Show**
The Memphis Area Pipe Smokers (MAPS) will host its second annual show "Pipes, Cigars & Blades" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, 2003, at the Hollywood Casino Hotel in Tunica, Mississippi. Contact the Hollywood Casino for room reservations at 800.871.0711 and mention the Memphis Pipe Show for special discount rates. For more information, contact Bob Doney at 901.386.4869 or George Trent at 901.755.4543.

**Milwaukee Pipe Show**
The Milwaukee Area Pipe Society will host its third annual pipe show on Saturday, July 26, 2003, at Pistol Pete's Neighborhood Grill, 16755 Lisbon Road, Brookfield, WI 53005. For complete information, contact the Milwaukee Area Pipe Society, P.O. Box 174, Elm Grove, WI 53122; *jharb@wi.rr.com*.

**New York Pipe Shows**
The New York Pipe Club presents three pipe shows in 2003. The 11th Annual Pipe Convention takes place March 7-8. The 4th National Annual Pipe Convention occurs May 30-31. The 8th Annual International Pipe Swap will be Aug. 29-30. Each show will be at the Ramada Hotel Newark International Airport where special room rates can be obtained by calling 800.223.8285 or 973.824.4000 and mentioning the pipe shows. For more information, contact Richard Esserman, 238 Aycrigg Ave., Unit D, Passaic, NJ 07055; 212.455.9869.

**North American Society of Pipe Collectors**
NASPC will host its 2003 pipe show on Aug. 23 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. To reserve a room, call the hotel at 614.846.0300. For more information, contact Bill Unger at 614.252.2904.

**Northern California Pipe Show**
The Sacramento Pipe Collectors' Assembly, the Fresno Pipe Club and the Peninsula Pipe Club will host their sixth annual Northern California Pipe Show on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the training room of the Clarklift Team Power Forklift dealership at 8111 Fruitridge Rd., Sacramento, California. Contact Gary Malmberg, 916.422.6027; e-mail: *gmalmberg@earthlink.net*.

**Raleigh Pipe Show**
The Triangle Area Pipe Smokers will host its sixth annual Pipe and Cigar Expo from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2003, at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. For information, phone Jim Swindell at 919.380.0780.

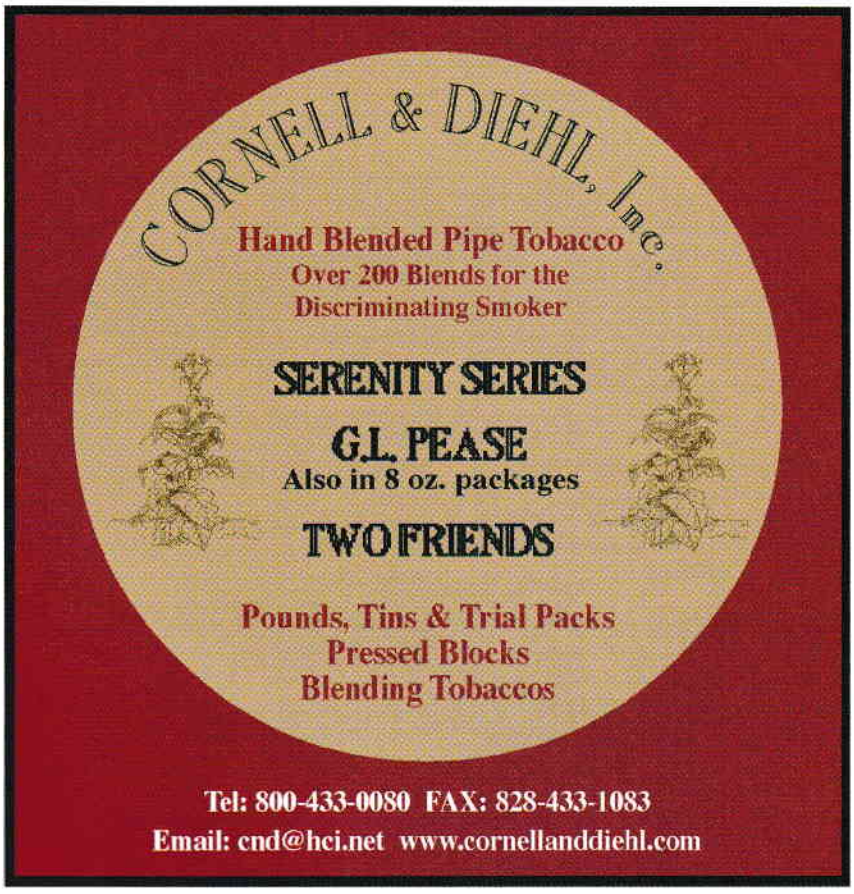
**Tri-State Pipe Show**
The Tri-State Pipe Show has been canceled due to its conflict with the Easter holiday weekend.

**Tucson Pipe Show**
The Old Pueblo Pipe Club will host its third pipe show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2003, at the Best Western Inn, Tucson Catalina Foothills, 6201 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, Arizona. Call the hotel for reservations at 888.788.2766. Contact Jack Tompkins at 520.459.4317; e-mail: *tompkins2@mindspring.com*; Web site: *www.jacktompkins.com/OPPC*.

**Washington Pipe Show**
Capital Area Pipe Smokers (CAPS) will host its second annual pipe show on Saturday, July 19, 2003, at the Washington Dulles Holiday Inn, 1000 Sully Road, Dulles, VA 20166. Call the hotel for reservations at 703.471.7411 and mention the Washington Pipe Show for a special discount rate. For more information about the Washington Pipe Show or other CAPS events, contact Randy Evans, *raevans@outdrs.net*; Brian Siravo, *CAPSpipeshow@aol.com*; or visit the Web site, *http://Caps_pipe.tripod.com*.

**West Coast Pipe & Cigar Expo**
The Southwest Pipe & Cigar League will host its seventh annual pipe and cigar expo from Saturday, March 22, to Sunday, March 23, 2003, at the Armitage Banquet Hall, 1767 North Vermont Ave., Hollywood, California. Discounted hotel reservations at the Ramada Hollywood can be made by calling Amber at 800.800.9733 by Feb. 21. You must mention the show to receive the discount. To reserve exhibit tables, purchase banquet tickets or for more show information, visit *www.swpcl.org* or contact Robert Vance at 626.396.9827; e-mail: *rwv52@earthlink.net*. ▶

We apologize that space limitations have made it impossible to list every club and event in our database. For a complete list of clubs and events, check out our Web site at *www.pt-magazine.com*. We ask that everyone who would like to have their club or event listed in future issues submit a fresh copy of the information including club name, meeting place and time and contact information to Clubs and Events, *Pipes and tobaccos* magazine, 5808 Faringdon Place, Raleigh, NC 27609; or e-mail *sross@specconmm.com*.



**The After Hours Pipe Club**
First Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Vintage restaurant in the Gage shopping center in Topeka, Kansas. Contact the staff at Churchill's, 785.273.0102; *afterhourspc@hotmail.com*; *www.homestead.com/afterhourspc*.

**Arrowhead Pipe Club**
Contact Dan Spaniola, Arrowhead Pipe Club, c/o Paul's Pipe Shop, 647 South Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502.

**Atlanta Pipe Club**
Second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Royal Cigar Co., 2179 Briarcliff Road, Atlanta, Georgia, on the corner of Briarcliff and LaVista Rd. Contact Joyce White at 404.329.0088 or Kelly Crow at *kelcro@mindspring.com*.

**Briars Club**
Second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at Hooters on Rt. 17 South in Paramus, New Jersey. Contact Howard at 201.767.4961 or *briarsclub2001@yahoo.com*.

**Briar Squires Pipe Club**
Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Hops Grill and Bar, 9826 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida. Annual pipe-smoking contests are held on the Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day. Contact Briar Squires, P.O. Box 61446, Jacksonville, FL 32236; Cy Jones at 904.739.8190; or Clif Byrd at *crbyrd@bellsouth.net*.

**Broad River Smokers' Conclave**
Second Thursday of the month at Tobacco Road Smoke Shop in Shelby, North Carolina. Contact Chris Tallent at 704.487.7868; *brsc@wncnet.com*; *www.wncnet.com/smokeit*.

**Burlington Pipe Club**
First Thursday of the month at The Black Bull, 1124 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario. Contact Phil Raney at 519.754.1148.

**Calumet Pipe Club**
First Thursday of the month at 6:30 at The Humidor Pipe Shop, 2502 Memorial Parkway in Huntsville, Alabama. Contact Robin Morgan at 256.539.6431.

**Capital Area Pipe Smokers (CAPS)**
Third Wednesday of every other month in the Washington, D.C. area. Contact Randy Evans, *raevans@outdrs.net*; Brian Siravo, *CAPSpipeshow@aol.com*; or *Caps_pipe.tripod.com*.

**Central Florida Pipe Club**
Last Thursday of the month at The Tobacco Merchant in Jacobsen's Plaza in Longwood, Florida, from 6 to 9 p.m. Contact Don Hockman Jr. at 407.647.3200; *orlandopipe@yahoo.com*.

**Central Oklahoma Pipe Enthusiasts (COPE)**
Second Thursday of the month at the Royal Bavaria Brauhaus & Restaurant, 3401 S. Sooner Road, Moore, Oklahoma. Contact COPE, P.O. Box 7034, Moore, OK 73153; or *jhaldeman@bix.com*.

**Chesapeake Pipe Club**
Second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Champion Billiards, 1969 E. Joppa Road, Towson, MD 21234. Call Bill Maitz, 410.825.8940.

**Christopher Morley Pipe Club of Philadelphia**
Third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Finnegan's Wake Pub, Third & Spring Garden Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact Bob Page at 215.567.2972 or *rpage@classicalguitarstore.com*.

**Circulo de la Pipa Mexico D.F.**
First Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Otro Lugar de la Mancha, Esopo #11, casi esquina con Av. Mazarik, Col. Polanco, Mexico City, Mexico. Contact Gustavo Chavezcamacho at *pipaclubdf@listbot.com*;*circulodelapipa.homestead.com/Bienvenida.html*.

**Confrere of Indiana Briar Friars**
Contact Stephen Williams at 765.282.0229.

**Conclave of Richmond Pipe Smokers (CORPS)**
Meets the third Tuesday of the month at various Richmond, Virginia-area restaurants and pubs. Call CORPS for location of next meeting at 804.342.0761; e-mail: *conclave@corpipesmokers.org*; Web site: *www.corpipesmokers.org*.

**Croft's Burley Burners**
First Saturday of the month at Croft's Pipe & Tobacco Shop, 4722 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77027. Call 713.850.8091 for more information.

**Dallas/Fort Worth Pipe Smokers Club**
Third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Londoner Tavern, 4291 Belt Line Road, Addison, Texas. Contact Ed Price at *epr065@airmail.net*.

**Fresno Pipe Club**
Third Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. at Hardwick's Briar Shoppe. Contact Douglas A. Pitts at Hardwick's Briar Shoppe, Manchester Center, 3402 N. Blackstone, Suite 124, Fresno, CA 93726; 209.228.1389; *dpitts@gte.net*.

**Great Northern Pipe Club**
Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m., usually at the Maplewood Lanes, Lower Level, 1955 English Street, Maplewood, Minnesota. Contact Jon Werner at *info@greatnorthernpipeclub.org*, or Tony Espeseth at 800.353.7378.

**Greater Kansas City Pipe Club**
Third Thursday of the month at Cigar & Tabac, 103 Metcalf Center in Overland Park, Kansas, at 8 p.m. The club also hosts an annual pipe show in the fall. Call Mark Sull at 913.362.7864 or e-mail the club at *gkcpc@yahoo.com*.

**Hudson Valley (N.Y.) Pipe Club**
First Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Copperfield's, Rt. 44, Millbrook, New York. Contact Rob DiStasio 914.533.6696 or *recoil@optonline.net*.

**Kentuckiana Pipe Smokers' Club**
Second Sunday of the month. Contact Samantha Hubert, 1612 Hickory Grove Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342; 502.839.3229; or *iapsc.net/html/kps1.html*.

**Knoxville Area Pipe Smokers (KAPS)**
Third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Contact *www.knoxareapipesmokers.org*, or Randy Pedigo at 865.637.7565; or *repedigo@bellsouth.net*.

**Memphis Area Pipe Smokers (MAPS)**
Third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the cigar lounge at the Marriott Hotel, 2625 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Memphis, Tennessee (near I-240 and Perkins Rd.). Contact Bob at *info@pipeclub.org*; *www.pipeclub.org*.

**Milwaukee Area Pipe Society**
Third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Jack's Tobacco and M.C.S., 13640 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin. Contact Joe Harb, 262.783.7473, *jharb@wi.rr.com*; *home.wi.rr.com/perique*.

**Mt. Town Society of Kapnismologists**
First and third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Smokers Club, 100 S. Mission Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Contact Kat Gartner at 517.775.8536; *gart@sensible-net*.

**Murfreesboro Pipe and Tobacco Club**
Second Monday of the month in the banquet room at Puffing Billy's Restaurant on Broad Street in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, at 6:30 p.m.

**Nashville Area Pipe Smokers (NAPS)**
Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sherlock Holmes Pub located at 2206 Elliston Place, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact Chuck Horvath at 615.790.9582; *chuck.horvath@us.army.mil*.

**New York Pipe Club**
First Tuesday of the month at Connolly's Pub and Restaurant, 121 West 45th St., at 6 p.m. Contact the club's Web site at *www.newyorkpipeclub.com*.

**Nordic Smokers' Guild**
Contact President Leif Slot, Florsgade 7, 3 th, DK-2200 Copenhagen N; *ls@n-t.dk*.

**North Georgia Pipe Club**
Third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Smitty's Tobacco, 975 Dawsonville Hwy., Gainesville, Georgia. Contact Clark Smith at 770.539.9006; *wcsmith1@bellsouth.net*.

**North Oakland Tobacco and Pipe Club (NOTPC)**
First Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Meeting locations vary in the Metro Detroit area. Contact Tim

McGinty at 248.471.0195; *tmcginty@ameritech.net.*

**Northeast Arkansas Pipe Puffers**
The Pipe Puffers meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. and the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Tobacco Plus Store in the Midway Plaza in Highland, Arkansas. Contact Dick Alexander, c/o Tobacco Plus-Midway Plaza, 1998 Highway 62/412, Hardy, AR 72542; 870.856.4100 or 870.856.4433.

**Northeast Wisconsin Tobacco Society (NEWTS)**
Third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Titletown Brewing Co. Contact Todd R. Jerabek at *tjerabek@frontiernet.net.*

**Old Pueblo Pipe Club**
Third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at local shops. For more information, check the schedule on the club Web site, *www.jack-tompkins.com/OPPC*, or contact Jack Tompkins at 520.459.4317; e-mail: *tompkins2@mindspring.com.*

**Pipe Club de France**
Contact President Alain Letulier, 38 rue du Chevalier de la Barre, F59175 Templemars; *alainletulier@compuserve.com.*

**Pipe Club of Taiwan**
Contact Ben Chen, P.O. Box 83-53, Taipei 111, Taiwan; *hanworld@ms29.hinet.net.*

**Pocono Inter-Mountain Pipe Enclave (PIPE)**
Every Tuesday night at El Humidor in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, from 6 to 9 p.m. Contact Joshua Rosenblatt at *Joshua@Rosenblatt.com*; 570.403.6160; *www.pocono-pipe.org*; or contact El Humidor at 570.822.3544; *www.elhumidor.com.*

**Sacramento Pipe Collector's Assembly (SPCA)**
Twice monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. and last Sunday of the month in downtown Sacramento, California, at 1325 O Street #1. Contact Gary Malmberg, 916. 442.6027; e-mail: *gmalmberg@earthlinknet.*

**Sandwich Isle Pipe Society**
Last Wednesday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. at South Pacific Pipes & Cigars, 350 Ward Ave., Suite 106, Honolulu, HI 96814. Contact Dale James Neff at 808.591.8275.

**Seattle Pipe Club**
Second Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Issaquah Tinderbox (club room), exit 15 I-90, Pickering Place, 1810 12th Ave. N.W., #C2. Contact Ron Butler, *crenterprise@unidial.com*; 253.927.3672; Matt Guss, *matt@reallysmart.com*, 206.903.6542; or Nathan Reasoner at 800. 647.7833, *www.seattlepipeclub.org.*

**Sherlock Holmes Pipe Club of Boston**
Second Wednesday of the month at the Holiday Inn, Mansfield, Massachusetts. Contact Mark Maxfield, *barley_shpc@yahoo.com*; or Don Powers, 781.449.0380.

**South Florida Briar Brotherhood**
Third Tuesday of the month in Fort Lauderdale. Contact Grant Porter at 954.741.8595; *www.flpipeclub.org.*

**South Hampton Roads Pipesmokers' Club**
First Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the White Horse Pub in Pembroke Mall, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Contact Dan Carey at 757.236.3469; e-mail: *e-celt@yahoo.com.*

**South Jersey Pipe and Cigar Club**
Second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Your Coffee and Cigar Box, 703 Tilton Road, Northfield, NJ 08225. Call 609.645.3345.

**St. Louis Pipe Club**
Second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at John Dengler Tobacconist, 700 S. Main, St. Charles, Missouri, and the fourth Saturday of the month at 7 p.m. at Town & Country Tobacco, 13933 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, Missouri. Contact Jay Milton at 618.288.2090 or Bob Calloway at 636.946.8555.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**Toronto Pipe Club**
Second Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. Contact Douglas Cope at 905.791.1440 or *www.torpipeclub.ca*.

**Triangle Area Pipe Smokers**
Second Tuesday at O'Charley's Restaurant on Six Forks Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Jim Carrino at 919.848.0685, or Stan Sokolove at *pipechief@mindspring.com*.

**Tri-State Pipe and Tobacco Club**
For information about meetings of the Fort Wayne-based club, contact Robert R. Rhodes Jr. at 260.749.9534, *j.rhodes30@verizon.net*.

**Waco Pipe Club**
Last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame Museum, 1108 S. University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas. Contact Steve Fallon at 254.754.3258.

**Washington Area Pipe Smokers**
Third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at The Smoke Shop, 940 W. Chestnut Street, Washington, Pennsylvania. Contact Paula J. Fenelon at The Smoke Shop, 724.228.3266.

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## ADVERTISING INDEX


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ashton | CV3 | Laudisi Enterprises | 42 |
| Blue's Review | 10 | Madelaine, Inc | 47 |
| Brigham Enterprises | 8 | McClelland Tobacco | 11 |
| Butera | 16-17 | Monjure International | 5 |
| CAO International | 29 | Music City Marketing | 6, 21 |
| Cornell & Diehl | 61 | Payless Pipes | 50 |
| Cristom Imports & Exports, Inc | 27 | Peter Stokkebye | 7 |
| Felipe Gregorio | 44-45 | Queensbury Cigar and Pipe | 52 |
| Havana Premium Cigar Shop | 63 | R.D. Field | 19, 31 |
| House of Windsor | 53 | Savinelli Pipes, Inc. | 51 |
| James Norman Limited | CV2-1, 9 | Stemco-Pimo | 54 |
| Knoxsville Cigar Company | 46 | Watch City Cigar Company | 64 |
| Kretek | CV4 | | |

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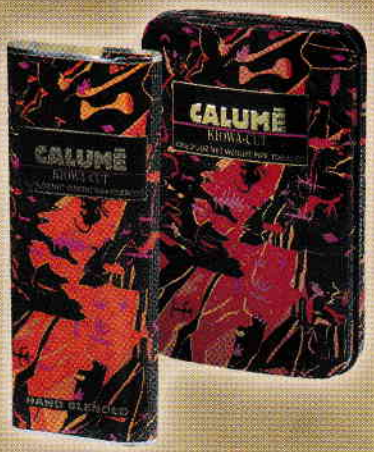


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